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REPORTS

ON THE

DISTRICTS OF MIDNAPORE

[INCLUDING HIJELEE]

AND CUTTACK:

BY

HENRY RICKETTS, ESQUIRE, C. S.;

Member of the Board of Revenue.

Calcutta:

JOHN GRAY, "CALCUTTA GAZETTE" OFFICE.

1858

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REPORT

ON THE

DISTRICT OF MIDNAPORE

INCLUDING

HIJELEE.

GENERAL.

THIS large District contains no less than 5,031 square miles of country, and 13,27,275 inhabitants. Perhaps there is no District under the Bengal Government, in which the varieties of soil, productions, and climate are so great. The contrariety between the high arid Pergunnahs of the North, and the low swampy Pergunnahs of the South, is excessive. In the former there are hundreds of square miles entirely unproductive, while the swamps of Hijelee produce crops little, if at all, inferior in quantity or quality to the produce of the swamps of Arracan.

2. All the more valuable products are found in this District,—Indigo, Silk, Sugar, and, in very small quantities, Safflower and Cotton; but, as in other Bengal Districts, the staple is Rice.

3. The Sugar trade after having increased considerably, has nearly ceased; during the last four years there has not been a single Certificate granted under Act XXXII. of 1836. The quantity protected by Certificate from 1839 to 1849 was as follows:—

	Maunds.		*Maunds.*
1839	4,607	1845	14,000
1840	10,103	1846	34,012
1841	12,768	1847	4,000
1842	11,000	1848	4,000
1843	15,000	1849	4,000
1844	36,770		

4. In the three Districts of Cuttack on which I have reported, there is not a single European Zemindar, but in Midnapore six per Cent. of the District is held either in ownership, in Putnee, or in farm by Europeans. The principal European landholder is Mr. John Watson, or Watson and Co., who, as Putneedars, hold the whole of the large fine Pergunnah of Bogree, and, as farmers, possess the jungle portions of the Bungboom Pergunnah, the whole of Pergunnah Bahadourpoor, and half of Pergunnah Buhampoor.

5. Mr. J. C. Abbott and Mr. G. L. Young also hold considerable Estates.

6. The Collector reports that the European Zemindars have, doubtless, by spreading capital, added to the general wealth of the District, but Indigo is the only produce which they can be said to have introduced. Judging from the small number of Suits, and from the little oppression that have come under his notice, the Collector's opinion of the management of the European Zemindars and their Assistants and Agents, is not unfavorable, but he believes that, for the most part, the ryots are "unwilling cultivators" of Indigo.

7. Though the Indigo ryots are certainly in many respects better off than others, being exempt from the usurious demands of the rapacious village Mahajuns, and from the numerous illegal exactions of native land-holders, still Mr. Cockburn thinks, that if entirely left to themselves, they would not grow Indigo; but the Indigo of Midnapore being for the most part grown on land not fit for the cultivation of Rice, there is less unwillingness on the part of the ryot to raise this crop than exists in other parts of Bengal.

8. There are 331 Estates paying above Rupees 1000-0-0, twelve estates paying above Rupees 5000-0-0, and twenty-three Estates paying above Rupees 10,000-0-0. Of these—

13 paying Rs.	455,478	13	10¾	belong to non-Residents.
5 paying Rs.	238,003	9	9	belong to Residents.
5 paying Rs.	301,460	13	5¾	are in the hands of the Collector.
Rupees	994,943		1½	

9. Of the twenty-three Estates, twenty are the property of Hindoo land-holders, two belong to Government, and one is owned by a Mahomedan, Nuseer Allee Khan, an Abyssinian, in the service of the Nawab of Moorshedabad.

10. Thirteen of these large Estates have been held by the same family for more than 25 years, six have been disposed of during that period for arrears of Revenue, one was acquired by the present owner by sale in satisfaction of decree of Court, three have been purchased by private sale.

11 The Raja of Burdwan, Baboo Mutty Lal Seal, and Baboo Hurcoomar Tagore, are among the non-resident Proprietors. There is no apparent difference between the management of their Estates, and the management of Estates held by less wealthy owners.

12. The five resident owners are persons of respectable character and much local influence, but with the exception of one, the Chowdree of Puttashpore, who attended the Midnapore School for many years, they are uneducated.

13. There is no lack of enterprize on the part of some of the European land-holders, and certainly one among the native non-resident Proprietors, Baboo Mutty Lal Seal, is always ready to embark capital in any enterprize holding out a fair prospect of success, but there are neither roads, nor navigable rivers, and consequently there is little inducement to promote the production of any bulky articles.

14. The Collector reports that in the jungle Pergunnahs to the West of the District, the lands capable of producing Cotton are extensive, and

supposed to resemble the Cotton lands of Bundlekund, but none is grown. There is no road by which it could be brought to market, and consequently it would be less profitable than crops for food, for which there must always be some demand in the neighbourhood; but I learn from Mr. Terry, who manages Watson's property, that they have laid out considerable sums in Cotton speculations with different sorts of seed in several quarters, and all have failed, and he considers Cotton to be entirely hopeless in Midnapore

15. The same Firm have tried the cultivation of Sugar on a large scale, but without success. It grows well in some spots, but considerable tracts fit for Cane are not procurable within a moderate distance, consequently any considerable manufactory never can answer, though on a very small scale it may be cultivated to advantage. They have made great endeavors to improve the Silk. They have sent persons to travel in Italy, and study the manufactures there: they have imported eggs from China with a view to improve the size of the cocoon, and though success commensurate with the expenses incurred, may not have been obtained, still improvement has taken place, and they hope for further success.

16 Indigo is on the increase, and may, it is said, be grown in much larger quantities. The cultivation is not so hazardous a speculation here, as in many parts of Bengal, for the country is not subject to such sudden inundations, and though for the most part, the crops may not be as heavy as in chur-lands, there never is complete failure.

17. In 14 years the export of Treasure from this District has amounted to no less than Rupees 1,52,19,839-0-0, or on an average, Rupees 10,87,131 0-0 per annum.

Land Revenue.

18. There are in this District, including Hijelee, 2,824 Estates, paying Rupees 20,53,690-0-0. Thirty nine Estates paying Rupees 64,708-0-0 are the immediate property of Government. Two hundred and six Estates, the property of individuals, and paying Rupees 2,89,571-0-0 are held in Khass Tuhseel, leaving 2,579 Estates in the hands of their proprietors.

19. Of the 206 Estates, the property of individuals in the hands of the Government, 179 are mere waste

20. Among the Estates held Khass, are the two large Hijelee Mehals of Jellamutah and Mujnamutah. There were balances against these Estates which rendered them liable to sale, but circumstances, connected with calamities of season, and the inefficient state of the Embankments, induced the Board of Revenue to exempt them from sale, and to bring them under Khass management instead. At this time there was a balance against them of Rupees 59,832 0 7¾. *viz*:—

Jellamutah, ...	„	24,949	9	10¾
Mujnamutah,... ...	„	34.822	6	9

21. The Jellamutah balances have been liquidated by deductions from the Zemindar's Salt Allowance and a payment in Cash; but

Rupees 23,429-1-1 is still due from Mujnamutah, to be gradually liquidated from the Salt Mishiara and Malikana.

22. Owing to inundations, the sudder jumma borne on the books has not been collected from this Estate, and there is a balance of Rupees 11,573-1-9 for 1259, for which, no one being answerable, it must be remitted. The Pergunnahs have now all been farmed, and, should no further calamities occur, the remaining balance, for which the Zemindar is answerable, will before long be recovered.

23 There is little to be said respecting the Land Revenue of the Midnapore portion of the District; it is collected Quarterly under Act I of 1845. In the last three years the Sales have been as follows:—

1850–51	... 29	... 16,420 11 9
1851–52	... 32	.. 12,145 1 2
1852–53	... 2	... 427 7 4¾
Total	... 63	... 28 995 4 3¾

Of these Mehals, only five petty Mehals paying Rupees 45-13-11 fell in to Government. This is a satisfactory statement.

24. It is impossible to speak in too high terms of the condition of the Collector's Office. The arrangement of the records admits of no further improvement. I tested it thoroughly by taking up the Register, and calling for this paper and that paper. The Omlah certainly were not two minutes in producing any paper named. The whole arrangement is most creditable. It is not all the work of the present incumbent of the Office, Mr. Cockburn. Baboo Jideh Chunder Chatterjea, Mr. Bayley, and the present Mohafiz, are all entitled to a share of the credit, but Mr. Cockburn can afford to spare some of the credit connected with the records, he is entitled to so much for his management in every Department of the Office.

25. It is mentioned above in para. 19, that of the Mehals held by the Government 179 are waste Julpair lands, for which no one will engage. These Mehals embrace 40,172 beegahs of land. They are resumed Mehals, each has an owner. The Collector thinks that the improved protection now about to be provided by Embankments may induce some of the owners of these Mehals to attempt to bring them under cultivation, but at present they are entirely waste, and the Revenue authorities are precluded, by the existence of proprietors, from making such arrangements for their management as might be feasible if they belonged to the Government. They cannot farm such Estates for a period exceeding 15 years. Could they give them free of rent for 30 or 40 years, possibly speculators might be found to cultivate them.

26. Complaints were made that all Suits for arrears of Revenue instituted by the holders of rent-free lands were systematically rejected and referred to the Civil Court. The Collector represents that the orders of the Commissioner dated the 4th September 1851, sanctioned the custom. They were as follows—"It has been ruled by the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, in their Construction No. 837, that Summary Suits "instituted by the holders of rent-free land against their tenants should

"be tried by the Collectors, under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of "1831. The Collectors are however competent under Clause I. Section "IX., of that Enactment, to reject a Summary Suit by a Persian Order "on the back of the petition, and refer the plaintiff to a Regular Suit in "the Civil Court. Adverting to the encouragement given to parties by "Section VIII. of the Regulation to prefer Regular Suits, and to the "inexpediency of the time of the Collectors being occupied in trying "cases not connected with the public Revenue, I think that you would "exercise a sound discretion in rejecting under Section IX., Summary "Suits preferred by lakhirajdars who pay no revenue to Government."

27. The business in all the Offices of this District is heavy; certainly, at some times, if not at all times, the Collector must be justified in referring parties to the Civil Courts, and with a constant uncertainty whether suits would be received or not, I should think it better for the lakhirajdars to apply at once to the Civil Courts. However, they seem to think otherwise, and as the law stands, I doubt the propriety of the Commissioner's orders that all suits on the part of lakhirajdars should be rejected and referred to the Civil Courts. Complaints of this nature will cease when the procedure in the Moonsiff's Courts shall be attended with fewer forms and delays.

28. Representations were made that the period of ten days fixed by the Board's orders of the 25th June 1852, for an appeal to the Collector from an order of the Deputy Collector, was not long enough, when, as in Midnapore, the Deputy Collector is located in the Mofussil, several days' journey from the Sudder Station. As the Deputy Collector can receive the petitions, and forward them to the Collector, there is no real difficulty, and it was suggested to the Collector to issue orders to this end.

29. The farmers of the large Estates in Hijelee complained that extensive tracts of land within their Farms had been taken for Embankments without any suitable compensation having been made to them. As the lands taken provided part of the assets, on which their farming jummas were adjusted, there can be no doubt they are entitled to a remission in their rent proportioned to the rent derived from the lands appropriated, and the Collector will procure authority to satisfy their just claims.

30. There was an endeavour made to get up a remonstrance against Summary Suits being received by the Deputy Collector stationed at Tumlook, in as much as the Zemindars were obliged in consequence always to have Agents in attendance there, as well as at the Collector's Office, by which their expenses were greatly increased, but the move appeared to come from the Mooktears themselves only. At the beginning of the rains, petitions were presented to all the Revenue Authorities, soliciting that the Deputy Collector might be ordered to reside all the year round at Tumlook. I did not regard the remonstrance as deserving of any attention.

31. The survey of this District having been condemned as entirely incorrect, a complete revision will be necessary. The professional work having been deemed sufficiently correct for the purposes of that Depart-

ment, it will be necessary only to prepare correct maps of Estates, making as much use as may be of the professional plans. An experiment is now making in Hooghly, the survey of which District also was condemned, as to how this necessary work may be most cheaply and expeditiously conducted. The nature of the proceedings, to be at some future date undertaken in this District, will depend on the result of the experiment in Hooghly.

32. The Zemindars of Majnamutah applied to have their Estate released from Khass management offering to pay up all balances, complaining that the losses on the sudder jumma in 1259, when the Estate was under Khass management, should be debited to them, and representing that, if the farming leases granted for 15 years are regarded as any obstacle to the restoration of the Estates, they are willing to receive them encumbered with those leases. The Collector has been told that the losses of 1259 cannot be charged against the Zemindars, and he will procure adjustment of his accounts accordingly. I cannot recommend the restoration of these Estates at present on any terms. I was instrumental to the restoration of these Zemindars in 1836, after they had been out of possession for upwards of 20 years. Their utter inability to manage the property has been fully proved. Their condition certainly is to be pitied, but it is attributable to calamities of season, and their own incapability to cope with misfortune.

33. The Collector has submitted a memorandum detailing the claims of his Treasurer to the full salary of Rupees 150 from the date on which the abolition of the Treasury of the Judge's Office was fully carried into effect. He represents that the Treasurer was distinctly promised that he should receive the salary of Rupees 150 when the incorporation of the Judicial with the Revenue Treasury had been carried out. The Board authorized payment of the increased salary, but the Auditor refused to pass the bill, because the expense in the Judge's Office had not been reduced. It appears to me that the Treasurer of the Collectorship is fairly entitled to the full salary of Rupees 150 from the 1st October 1852, when the existing arrangement was carried into effect. Whether a saving can be effected in the Office of the Judge is a question on which the claims of the Treasurer of the Collectorship must not be made to depend.

34. It appears a saving of Rupees 5 has been effected in the Judge's Office by the dismissal of his Potdar. His Accountant receives Rupees 25; his salary might, I think, be reduced to Rupees 20, certainly not to less. The work in the Judge's Office instead of being decreased is increased by the new system, while the work in the Collector's Office has been increased as follows:—

Chulans received in a year	727	0	0
Daily advices sent	353	0	0
Daily advices received	340	0	0
Number of cheques for payment	1,465	0	0
Cash received	1,26,910	4	0¾
Cash paid	2,27,716	7	9¾

35. As under the old system, the Judge never, if he obeyed orders, kept any considerable amount of Cash in his Treasury but deposited it in the Collector's Treasury, I do not see that any advantage whatever is gained by the new system; while, if the Offices are not close together, there is increased trouble and delay to all who have to pay, and to all who have to receive—increased work in the Judge's Office, and increased work in the Collector's Office. For the same reason that the Bank of Bengal refuses to pay or receive sums under Rs. 50, I would return to the old system. By all means let the Judge bank with the Collector, depositing when he has any thing to deposit, and drawing when he has occasion to draw, but, to my mind, the new system is no more advantageous in practice than it would be for a resident in Calcutta, instead of placing a small sum to meet all little details in the hands of his khansama or sirdar bearer, drawing on the Bank, and depositing as occasion required, to make his servant merely his accountant, and send each anna received to, and draw for each anna wanted, from the Bank.

36. The Collector has directed my attention to the system of educating Wards under the Court, and suggested that all should be taken to Calcutta and placed under one of the Professors of the College at Hooghly. Within my recollection, this difficult subject has been taken up by the Board several times, and without any result. Mr. Cockburn represents that the young Raja of Soojamuta, has during his minority, had twelve guardians. He certainly has not turned out well, and is an unsteady youth. I have great doubts whether he would have turned out better had he been educated at Hooghly. Of the twelve guardians, I was personally acquainted with ten. I can trace no annexion between the follies to which the young Raja is said to be addicted, and the character of either of the gentlemen alluded to. As this wide subject is not more immediately concerned with Midnapore than with any other District in Bengal, I will not pursue it further. It might be well, I think, if the Board of Revenue were directed to make mention briefly, in their annual Reports, of the result of the management of Wards Estates, and any improvement introduced, or proposed, in the system pursued in the education of the minors.

Embankments, Hijelee.

37. Mr. Brine who is now in charge of these works, met me at Midnapore, and from him I learned the existing state. As I on one occasion visited the whole of the Hijelee Embankments, and examined all minutely, I had little, if any thing, to ask respecting position. He informs me that, though nearly seven lacs of Rupees have been expended, the works are still not only incomplete, but entirely inefficient every where. Instead of portions being completed, and the rest made merely sufficient to withstand the ordinary spring tides, there is not a yard of the whole range in a condition to stand the least pressure. There has been no turfing. They are all composed of clods of earth loosely thrown up, which would all melt away before the first wave that struck them.

38. In Doro not one-half the work has been completed.
In Goomgurh about three-fifth has been done.
In Kusba Hijelee not above one-third has been completed.
In Mujnamutah about one-third of the earth has been raised.
In Beer-cost about two-fifth.

39. Mr. Brine says he cannot estimate the expense of completing the works to the section contemplated, and providing suitable sluices for the drainage of the surplus rain water, at less than 10 lacs of Rupees. So that in Hijelee, Midnapore, and Culmijole, that is, in the Embankments of this one District, we have an estimated outlay of nearly a quarter of a million of money, *viz* :—

	Lacs.		
Hijelee expended about	7	0	0
Ditto to be expended	10	0	0
Midnapore and Culmijole to be expended ...	7 or 8	0	0

40. I do not believe that the sections to which it is proposed to raise the Embankment are one inch too large, but I submit such an outlay should be incurred only under the best superintendence to be procured, at almost any cost in this part of the world. In order to secure the most advantageous outlay of all this money there should be an Officer of first-rate acquirements Superintendent of Embankments in Midnapore and Hijelee, with four scientific Officers under him, two for the Midnapore and Culmijole Divisions, and two for the Hijelee Division. Supposing the staff salary of the Superintendent to be Rupees 1000, and of the four Civil Officers Rupees 500 each, the total would be Rupees 36,000 per annum. Should the works occupy three years, the superintendency would cost Rupees 1,08,000, which is a fraction more than 4 per Cent. on 25 lacs, a most moderate per-centage for really efficient superintendence.

41. Whether this large outlay is necessary or not, I am in no position to say. I have no business to express, or to have any opinion on a subject purely scientific, but, seeing how entirely unsuccessful all attempts have hitherto been to protect the District from floods from the sea, and floods from the Hills, I feel assured that no works except such as are contemplated will afford protection, and they must all be erected on the most correct principles. We must have uniform height, proportioned strength, and the most carefully defined lines. We must not have the waterway decrease, as the flood of water increases, now, not unfrequently the case, we must not have long ranges of Embankments 10 feet high, with here and there, a few hundred yards of Zemindarree Embankments not above 5 feet high, rendering the increased height of the whole range useless.

42. If this money is to be laid out, an establishment which would cost 20 per Cent. on the outlay, if properly applied, would be an economical expenditure, for in such works every spadeful of earth put in a wrong place, is money thrown away. Above all, *first-rate acquirements* in the Controller are indispensable. At present one person prescribes the use at greatly increased cost, of iron in all sluices, another

of equal experience affirms that wood at one-third the cost is infinitely preferable. In parts of Hijelee, clay is to be laid upon sand, at a cost of 50 feet for the Rupee. I have heard it said that in such localities, sand, if a proper slope and sufficient crest and height be given, is the best possible protection, and that to bring clay from a distance, when sand is procurable close at hand, is mere waste of money; that the sand and the clay never can unite. Were the base clay, it appears reasonable that a clay covering to the sand united with the clay base might form a strong work, but with a base of sand, with which, assuredly, the clay will not unite, there will be nothing to prevent the driven water, from immediately undermining the clay coating, and breaking it all to pieces in a few minutes. I say there should be science and acquirements sufficient to silence all these disputes and differences. Twenty-five lacs should not be expended on a guess.

43. There have been many changes lately made in Hijelee, all in the right direction. The District has been divided into two Divisions. The Darogah's salary has been raised from Rupees 10 to 35 and 45. Several European Officers have been placed under each Superintendent, rates have been adjusted according to the distance the earth to be carried, varying from 1000 feet per Rupee to 500,—but still, I have, within these few days, heard one Officer represent, that he was raising a very large Embankment, where each spring tide rose two feet perpendicular on its base, and that he considered it quite safe without any piling or other protection; while another Officer declared that to calculate on the stability of an Embankment in such a position made merely of earth, when from the constant flooding with salt water no grass would grow to protect it, was simply an absurdity; that artificial protection with wood should be afforded, till jungle or reeds, or some other plants could be persuaded to grow on the outside, and protect the earth from the washing of the waves, which for several days, twice in each mouth, would, during the South West Monsoon, attack the work with much violence. I repeat, all these matters should be definitively settled, before the quarter of a million is expended.

44. There should be an establishment entertained to attend and manage the sluices as soon as they shall have been erected, and without the attendance of the sluice jemadar no person should be allowed to raise or lower the sluice hatches. Hitherto, Chokeedars have not been allowed for the Inspection Bungalows. A Chokeedar should be allowed at Rupees 3 per mensem for each. The sluice jemadars should live at the Inspection Bungalows, and the Chokeedars should assist them in assembling persons to assist in raising and lowering the sluice hatches when necessary.

45. The revenue payable by the Estates which will be protected by the Embankments is Rs. 4,95,396-0-0. Since 1823-24 when the first hurricane occurred in the Bay of Bengal, to 1851-52, the remissions in consequence of inundations have amounted to Rs. 9,39,708-15-7. I have

said since the "first hurricane" occurred. There may have been storms of equal violence very many years ago, but the accounts show no remissions between 1799 and 1823-24, and previous to May 1823, the people on the coast considered the coast Pergunnahs as safe as those inland.

46. The sum above mentioned, Rupees 939,708-15-7 from 1824-25 to 1851-52, or 28 years, gives an average of about Rupees 33,500-0-0. To lay out 17 lacs in order to prevent remissions averaging Rupees 33,500 is not an advantageous expenditure, regarded only as a money adventure, for Rupees 33,500 is not above 2 per Cent. on the estimated outlay of 17 lacs, but, as represented by the Collector to make Embankments of no use when there is no storm, and certain to be useless on a storm occurring, is to have no return at all for the money expended. Moreover, were the works to be abandoned, it by no means follows that the loss would be limited to Rupees 33,500 per annum. The inclination to encroach is in some places so decided, that if no opposition was offered, Hijelee might in a few years become one large salt swamp, for many of the large basins are known to be lower than the level of high spring tides. Further, the Government having undertaken to keep up the Embankments, the sea must be kept out, if it can be, at any reasonable expense, and the lives and property of the 3,00,000 people, who inhabit the District, be protected.

47. I concur entirely with the Collector, when he says:—"on the whole "it appears to me, that if by an outlay of even so large a sum as 17 "lacs in the enlargement of existing Embankments, and the construc-"tion of sluices, the country can be placed in a position of security from "all ordinary and extraordinary inundations and irruptions of the sea, "the outlay must be considered a judicious one."

48. I have proposed that an Officer should be appointed Superintendent of Hijelee and Midnapore, with four Executive Engineers under him. Though a General Superintendent of Embankments should be appointed, I would for three years make these Embankments an entirely separate charge, and give the other Officer the charge of the remaining works in Burdwan, Hooghly, 24-Pergunnahs, &c. An Officer of great experience and ability would find quite sufficient to occupy all his time, and call for all his knowledge in the works of this District alone. To begin with, he ought, with the Executive Engineer by his side, to inspect every yard of the 633 miles of River Embankments in Midnapore and Culmijole, and all the great sea khal Embankments of Hijelee, and insist on the system which he considers the best being carried out by all his Subordinates. I have named Rupees 1,000 as the salary of the Superintendent, but it would be well worth while to pay double, rather than one-fourth of the contemplated outlay should be misspent.

Culmijole and Midnapore.

49. In this Division there are 633 miles of Embankments, divided into two sub-divisions, called the Midnapore Division and the Culmijole Division.

50. The Establishment at present is as follows:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Executive Engineer	500	0	0
Covenanted Assistant Overseer, including Military pay ...	58	1	10
Ditto Ditto Ditto	57	4	4
Assistant Executive Officer	112	0	0
Uncovenanted Overseer	277	2	8
Sub-Assistant Overseer	75	0	0
Embankment Darogahs	230	0	0
Ditto Mohurrirs	115	8	0
Ditto Chupprassees	252	0	0
Ditto Bungalow Chowkeedars	50	0	0
Total Company's Rupees	1727	0	10

51. The expense on the Zemindarree Embankments during the last three years has been as follows:—

1850-51	15,895	0	0
1851-52	14,643	0	0
1852-53	53,474	0	0
Total	84,012	0	0
Average	28,004	0	0

On the Government Embankment the average has been Rupees 76,698-0-0.

52. Captain Rigby, the Executive Engineer, is of opinion that the Establishments are unequal to the duties demanded of them. He would re-organize them as follows:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Executive Engineer	500	0	0
Assistant Executive Officer	250	0	0
Assistant Executive Officers	336	0	0
Overseers if native (uncovenanted)	300	0	0
Assistant Overseers	623	10	0
Embankment Darogahs	640	0	0
Ditto Mohurrirs	168	0	0
Ditto Chupprassies	368	0	0
Ditto Bungalow Chokeedars	147	0	0
Total Company's Rupees	3332	10	0

This is nearly double the existing Establishment.

53. He recommends that each Darogah should have a salary of not less than Rupees 20, and that he should not be expected to furnish and be answerable for above 250 or 300 men. If more men are required on a section of an Embankment, he would employ a second Darogah with the usual security. He represents that in point of fact, the Darogahs are little more than the Agents between the Executive Engineer and the Coolies; that they are employed merely to procure work-people, and to become answerable for the advances made to them, that most of them know nothing whatever of the art of making Embankments; and that, for the most part, nothing more is expected from them than to bring a certain number of persons to dig earth in a named locality at a certain rate.

54. The Divisions are so extensive the scientific Officer cannot supervise the whole. The Overseers are seldom qualified to do more than to measure length, breadth, and height; the Darogahs are allowedly unable to do even that.

55. The Culmijole and Midnapore Embankments are many of them works of great magnitude, not less than 19 feet in height.

* *Government Embankments.*

Culmijole.			
1850-51	1,103	6	0
1851-52	26,655	1	0
1852-53	62,313	9	7
Midnapore.			
1850-51	20,481	3	11
1851-52	20,624	15	0
1852-53	98,917	5	7
Total	230,095	0	1

Including zemindaree, the average outlay has been Rupees 1,04,359-9-[illegible].

† In 3670 places in 26 years, being an average of 140 breaches per annum.

56. Notwithstanding that the outlay during the last three years has been considerable,* the Embankments are still in a very inefficient condition, and are breached each year in many† places.

57. The sluices already estimated for in Culmijole will cost Rupees 60,000. The sluices in Midnapore will cost about Rupees 2,00,000. The earth-work in the two Divisions will cost about Rupees 90,000, exclusive of the work in the Zemindaree Embankments of Midnapore, which will cost about Rupees 28,000, and of the work in the Zemindaree Embankment of Culmijole, which will cost about Rupees 26,000. Thus, an expenditure of Rupees 4,04,000 is already in immediate contemplation, but this outlay will not suffice to make the works such as they should be. Captain Righy reports that it will take three years to complete the works, and that the cost will not be less than 8½ lacs of Rupees; and when all this large sum shall have been expended, the continued efficiency of the works can be preserved only by maintaining a strong Establishment to watch and preserve them, to fill up foxes' holes and rat holes, to prevent cattle being tethered on them, or houses built upon them.

58. Captain Righy sees no possibility in his Division of adopting the system now contemplated with reference to the Embankments of the Damooda, *viz.*, of allowing the rivers freely to spread over some portion

of the country, in order to the effectual protection of the remainder; neither does he think the Embankments can be altogether relinquished without ruining the country for years.

59. Captain Righy has had more experience in Embankments than almost any Officer now in the Service, and his opinions are deserving of much attention. He decidedly maintains that the country can be protected by Embankments, provided suitable measures be taken to preserve them from injury, and that they be erected with due attention, system and science.

60. Having learned from Captain Righy the heavy expenditure it is proposed to incur, I directed the Collector, in communication with him, to prepare a return showing the utmost positive and negative advantages which the Government would derive from the outlay.

61. The Collector shows that the Revenue payable by Mehals in which the Embankments are repaired at the expense of the Government is Rupees 3,71,639-0-9½, the Estimate for repairing the Embankments to protect these Estates is Rupees 280,635-8-8¾. The revenue paid by the Estates, the owners of which have to pay Embankment expenses, amounts to Rupees 5,20,936-12-1*, the Estimate for repairing these Embankments is Rupees 2,19,245-0-0.

* These two items added together amount to Rupees 4,99,880-12-1¼, the Estimate for works in the Hooghly District under the Culnijole Superentendency is Rupees 3,13,326-3-0 making the aggregate outlay Rupees 8,13,206-15-1¼.

62. The Goverment is bound to keep the Embankments in a state of efficiency, and if by the outlay proposed complete protection would be afforded, and future expense obviated, and such necessary protection could not be provided at a less cost, it would be difficult to oppose the oulay; but as represented by the Collector, the charge of the Executive Engineer is so extensive, there are many Embankments which he has not yet even seen, all his calculations are consequently based on the information of native Officers, whose corruption is proverbial, and whose ignorance is admitted. The outlay may be necessary, but there is no reason to suppose that the money will be laid out to the best advantage; on the contrary as the Estimates have been prepared for works which the only scientific Officer employed has been unable to visit, there is every reason to anticipate that, as represented by the Zemindars, works already stronger than necessary, will be made stronger, and weak points be left as they are.

63. I have said it is proposed to lay out Rupees 2,19,245 on what are called the "Zemindaree Embankments." The work is performed by Government Officers, and the expense each year levied rateably from all the Zemindars of the Pergunnahs in which the works are situated.

64. Respecting the proposed outlay, the Collector writes thus:—

"I have called it a disproportionate outlay, compared I mean with "the capabilities of the Mehals to meet it, and we can only judge of the "capabilities of the Mehals by looking at the sudder jumma, and in this "point of view the outlay seems enormous. At the same time it would be "wrong, in my opinion, to expend without their (the Zemindar's) con-"sent, such a very large sum as that proposed, unless Government is

" prepared to advance it, and to recover the advances by very gra-
" dual instalments from the Zemindars, and unless also some kind
" of satisfactory assurance can be given by the responsible Executive
" Engineer under whose advice and estimates the money is expend-
" ed, that the Embankments will thereby be placed in so thoroughly
" efficient a condition, as not to require for many years to come more
" than slight annual repairs, for if afterwards it should appear that the
" large outlay was insufficient, and therefore practically useless, the
" works imperfectly finished and requiring reconstruction, or the annual
" repairs to be as large as hitherto, then the Zemindars would not, I
" believe, derive any proportionate benefit from the large outlay pro-
" posed, and would be so grieviously wronged that it would only be right
" and proper to pay the unnecessary expense that had been incurred.
" The Executive Engineer himself was removed last year at the most
" important period of the whole working season, and deputed to visit
" Hijelee, while all the European Overseers, Messrs. Crawford, Brine,
" and Gray, were likewise taken away. Can it be wondered at, that
" under such a system, the Embankments are neglected. enourmous sums
" charged, and not properly expended, that much oppression and
" corruption take place, and extreme dissatisfaction be felt by the
" Zemindars. I now understand that Captain Rigby has been ordered
" up to Calcutta, his place being supplied by a Sub-Conductor, who can-
" not possibly know any thing of what has been going on, or is proposed
" to be done, and this at the very season when no changes should be
" made. I anticipate that the native Subordinates will have it all their
" own way again."

65. This is not an exaggerated picture. I confirm the representations, and I agree in the opinions expressed.

66. The Zemindars are extremely dissatisfied with the existing state of the Department. They represent that large expense is incurrred in places where Embankments never have been, and never can be required, that the Executive Engineer, from the extent of country under him, cannot visit the whole, and consequently that the underlings of the Department are unchecked, that their representations are habitually disregarded, that if the works, which they are informed are contemplated, are carried out, they must be grieviously injured, and some of them nearly, if not quite ruined. Some of these representations may be exaggerated, but they have grounds for great dissatisfaction ; year by year large sums are levied from them for repairs, and yearly they suffer from the Embankments bursting. They cannot understand being called upon to pay for the Inspection Bungalows, which they represent are being erected at an extravagant cost, and in greater numbers than are necessary.

67. I proposed to them that the existing system of annual adjustment should be abandoned, that the average cost for the last 20 years should be ascertained, and that they should pay that sum annually for 20 years to come. All those present readily agreed, and I believe the arrangement will be acceptable to all For a few years the bargain will be disadvantageous to the Government, for a considerably in-

creased outlay is contemplated, but if that money be scientifically, and properly laid out, and the Embankments be really made efficient, there will be no breaches, the outlay in repairs will be trifling, and the Government will eventually gain. In short, the gain of their own good work or the loss occasioned by their own bad work, will fall on the Government, and not on the Zemindars.

68. I recommend this plan for adoption; it will obviate all the embarrassments continually complained of in consequence of delays in the preparation of the accounts, for there will be no accounts to prepare. The demand on the Zemindars will be regularly and timely collected in the same manner as the Land Revenue At the expiration of the period during which the compact is to stand, it will be open to the contracting parties to return to the existing system of annual adjustment, or to make another compact for a further term of years.

69. As the necessity of raising the pay of Darogahs in order to induce persons of some substance and respectability to accept service has been re-organized in Hijelee, I conclude a similar system will now be pursued in Midnapore and Culmijole.

70. In reporting on the Hijelee Embankments, I have proposed that a Superintendent, with four Executive Engineers under him should be appointed in this District. Though the Estimate for Midnapore and Culmijole, is only one-half the Hijelee Estimate, there are perhaps greater difficulties to be encountered in these Divisions, than in Hijelee, the one great difficulty of the "Soonput" Embankment excepted.

71. Every inquiry made goes to show that the great mistake in the Embankment Department has been the employment of inefficient Establishments. For many years it was supposed, that anybody was fit to be a Superintendent of Embankments. Annually a certain quantity of earth was excavated in one place, and piled up in another, but whether in the right or the wrong place, was not considered worth inquiry. If ten breaches occurred, they were filled in, if one hundred occurred, they were filled in, if five hundred occurred, they were filled in. Heavy rain was always considered sufficient explanation to account for any number of breaches.

72. Of late years it has been admitted that science was necessary in the Embankment Department, but the exigencies of the service have for the most part been such, that scientific men have not always been procurable, and the country placed under one Officer has been so extensive, that they have been unable to make use of the science they possessed. Moreover, though in other Departments the principle of making responsible places worth having to *honest men* has for some time been adopted, till within these few months there has not been an Office open to natives in the Department of Public Works which an honest man could accept. The system has been to give low salaries, have low rates, and wink at irregularities.

73. In a Memorandum given to me by Captain Rigby, I find the following passages:—"It is notorious as I have repeatedly brought to "notice, that Darogahs do not accept their situations for the amount of "their pay, and full proof of this was afforded me in the Hijelee

" Division a few months hence. where I found the Darogahs kept ten
" months in arrears as additional security for their honesty. They de-
" posit a cash security of Rupees 300, borrowed at an interest of one or
" two Rupees per cent per month, payment of which (taking its mean)
" from their salary, leaves them Rupees 5-8 per mensem, a splendid
" salary for the disburser of Rupees 50,000!

74 " In lower Mundul Ghat, this season about 30 miles of Embank-
" ments have been repaired by giving advances to two Darogahs (one only
" being authorized by Government) of Rupees 1,600 to Rupees 2000 each
" at one time their security deposit being Rupees 300. The quantity
" of earth work is undoubtedly great, but it is acquired by tacitly sanc-
" tioning the systematic frauds exposed above, for the Board do not, I
" consider, intend to recover Darogah's surcharges from the Executive
" Engineer, although under the present system, they debit him with the
" amount of such sums I say the stealings are tacitly sanctioned be-
" cause I never heard of an attempt to recover any thing from a Da-
" rogah above the amount of his security deposit, which wholly or in part
" is annually absorbed in his season's account, when he borrows a fresh
" supply to deposit for the forthcoming season's work, or if credit fail him
" in the bazar, a new man of the same class and seeking employment
" with the same end in view—peculation—is entertained. It may be
" asked whether any reason exists why Executive Officers should close
" their eyes to the peculations carried on under the present system, and
" one is immediately forthcoming in the fact that retrenchments made
" by them from the accounts of Darogahs are debited against themselves,
" and hence the more vigilant they are, the greater becomes their debt
" to the Government in the books of the Accountant-General The above
" arises from a bad system, and an inefficient Establishment under the
" present system, the better the Executive Engineer's checking Establish-
" ment is, than efficient, and the greater his activity and vigilance in
" the detection of the Darogah's rascalities the larger is the amount
" placed at his debit. Thus in 1850-51 the amount debited to my
" predecessor is Rupees 2,000. This year, with a far more efficient esta-
" blishment, the Executive Engineer will be debited with Rupees 12,000,
" two years' staff salary."

75. This is a true picture, and comes from an Officer of the Depart-
ment of nearly twenty year's standing No wonder the Zemindars who
have to pay, complain!

76 The Establishments authorized in Hijelee are proof that a more
wholesome system is to prevail for the future, but in carrying the change
into effect, great circumspection will be necessary, or, assuredly, we shall
only have the expense of liberal salaries added to the existing evils;
vigilant superintendence must be provided by men of such education and
character, as to demand unlimited trust. I have proposed a Superinten-
dent, and four Executive Engineers under him, and I am entirely con-
vinced it is the smallest staff that can be employed with any prospect of
success They should be employed with an understanding, that until
the completion of the works, they will not be removed

ROADS.

77. The great want in this District is roads.

78. The road from Midnapore to Oolobereea was metalled by the Ferry Fund Committee for 21 miles with the Midnapore kunka which has lasted very well, and the remainder of the distance with lime-stones collected in the neighbourhood. The lime-stone was not laid down thick enough, and the stones being for the most part round, it does not bind well. Moreover, a part of the metalled road was this year carried away, in consequence of breaches in the Embankments to the North of it, and, of course, all the expense in metalling so much of it, has been wasted. The part metalled with kunka requires very little repair. All necessary is, that the ruts which have been worn in some places should be filled in sufficiently to prevent the hackeries from continuing to follow them during the ensuing rains. The part repaired with lime-stones requires a great deal of repair. In parts the lime-stone has been cut through to the under soil. If not thoroughly repaired before the rains, this will be little, if any better, than the part not metalled.

79. If more lime-stone is not immediately procurable, all the stones which have been forced out of the ruts and lie scattered about, should be carefully collected, and thrown in again, and other parts of the road a little scroped if necessary, in order to fill in these holes, and raise them a little above the level of the rest of the road. If funds are procurable a few inches more stone should be thrown over the whole.

80. It appears that after a good deal of correspondence, the Government has directed that for the present the road from Paunchkoral to Oolobereea should be repaired as a fair weather road only. Till the arrangements with respect to the Embankments shall be such as to make this road secure, assuredly no great expense should be incurred in improving it, and, provided there be a good road from Paunchkoral to Tumlook, and 13 miles below Tumlook to Gooakhalee, where the Roopnarain joins the Hooghly, the Oolobereea road is not much required, except for travellers and foot passengers.

81. The delay and expense in crossing the three rivers is considerable, whereas a metalled road to Gooakhalee would take all produce at once to the Hooghly, and avoid all the delays and dangers between Tumlook and Gooakhalee, which are said to be great. It appears to me then, that the order for repairing the Oolobereea road as a fair weather road should be at once carried out, and that the proposed new line on the South side of the Canal should be abandoned. There should be no new earth thrown all over the Oolobereea road; where altogether washed away, it should be replaced, and gaps and cuts filled up, and the deep ruts picked in. Orders are immediately necessary, for I understand from the Executive Engineer that he is at work making a new road on the South side of the Canal, immediately East of the Roopnarain river, to be joined to the old work by a bridge. It originally was intended that this removal of the road to the South of the Canal, was to be dependent on the re-opening of the Canal, but it appears the construction of the road is going on, though the Canal is not to be re-opened.

82. Parts of the Oolobereca road, where the soil is sandy, are good; parts where the soil is clay, are in the same state as the Cuttack road, which I have before described. The same plan should be followed with both.

83. I understand that the Military Board have called for an Estimate of the expense of metalling the road from Pauchkorah to Tumlook. An Estimate should also be prepared of the expense of carrying a metalled road to Gooakhalee, at the junction of the Roopnarain and Hooghly. The Salt Agent says.— "The advantages of the road would be incalculable. The dangerous part of the Roopnarain river is from Gooakhalee to "Tumlook, and the traffic in Indigo, Silk, &c, is all by this route, instead "of *viâ* Oolobereca." I imagine the greater part of the traffic is by this route, because the Oolobereca road is nearly always impassable. If both were in equally good condition, Mr. Terry tells me, very little would be taken to Oolobereca, but there are difficulties on the Oolobereca line which do not exist on the Tumlook line. We know that money laid out on the Tumlook line will be well laid out; we cannot say that of the Oolobeereca line, till the Embankments North of it, both in Hooghly and Midnapore, shall all have been placed in an efficient condition. Moreover, Mr. Young, a considerable landholder in Midnapore, informs me that Oolobereca is exceedingly confined, and there would be very great difficulty in increasing its means of storage.

84. The road from Belda in the Juggernath road, through Nugwan to Contai in Hijelee, is very much required, and it may be constructed at an inconsiderable cost, for as it will follow the slope of the country, instead of crossing it, as the Juggernath road does, only one bridge will be necessary throughout the line. The distance from Belda to Contai is about 34 miles. A short time since Rs. 1,200 was laid out on the road by the Midnapore Ferry Fund Committee. Mr. Brine, who has now charge of the Hijelee Embankments, and whose head-quarters will be at Nugwan (called also Agrachar) in the middle of the line, is willing to undertake the construction of the road, and he estimates that, including the one bridge, it will not cost above Rupees 4,500.

85. There is now no road from Midnapore to either Contai or Nugwan. Contai is the head quarters of the Salt Agent of Hijelee; at Nugwan there will be stationed a Deputy Magistrate, a Moonsiff, and the Superintendent of Embankments.

86. I earnestly recommend that this road be commenced on forthwith.

87. The North road from Midnapore to Bancoorah is in an excellent state of repair as far as the boundary of the Midnapore District. It is over a hard dry country, and can be kept in order at a very little expense.

88. The Cuttack or Juggernauth road through the District is in the same condition as elsewhere; except the first four miles out of Midnapore, which are metalled.

89. The road to Keerpoy and Burdwan has been long neglected, and parts have now entirely disappeared, though the bridges remain. It is impassable for six months even for foot passengers. There is much traffic on this route, and the repair of the road is greatly desired. It

passes through a very fertile District, indeed, the most fertile in these parts, and is regarded by those concerned in trade as by far the most necessary of all the roads which have been brought to my notice. Should this road be opened, it is strongly recommended there should be a branch 10 miles to Guthal in the Roopnarain river. The traffic in this direction is so considerable, and of such value, Indigo, Silk, Iron, various kinds of seeds, cloths, &c., that it is supposed a toll on the road would probably realize sufficient to pay the whole Government outlay, but before any money is laid out on this road, all the plans regarding Embankments must be finally decided, or, more than that, the result must be seen.

90. As merely a road of communication between Midnapore and Burdwan, the opening of this line does not appear to me very necessary, for the road *via* Bishenpore is only 16 miles longer than the road it is proposed to open, but, as opening a rich District, it would doubtless have many advantages. It is in this country so difficult to procure any statistics on which reliance can be placed, that it must be exceedingly difficult to determine on the positive, and much more difficult to determine the relative advantages of different lines of road. It is impossible to look at the map, and not to be convinced that the few great lines I have alluded to could not but be of very great advantage to the District, and would promote the general resources of the country, but the best information on such subjects here, is little better than a guess.

91. Annexed is a very useful little sketch of the roads furnished by the Collector, Mr. Cockburn.

ABKARREE.

92. From the 1st December the Abkarree Department again came under the Collector of Revenue.

93. From Returns prepared at my request, it appears that the net income derived from Abkarree and Opium, during the seven years the Department has been under the Abkarree Commissioner, has been Rupees 2,11,517-2-0 more than it was in the previous seven years when the Department was under the Collector.

94. I have no doubt, that at present the successful management of the Abkarree Revenue is a much more difficult task than the collection of the Land Revenue. In the management of the Abkarree Revenue there is room for the exercise of great discretion, opportunity of turning to advantage acquaintance with the wants and habits of the people, and, occasionally, conspicuous opportunity of displaying adroitness in administration. I have great fear that there will be a considerable falling-off in the receipts. The Commissioners of Revenue have been told that the Abkaree must not be regarded, as it used to be, a subject altogether unworthy the attention of those who had charge of the Land Revenue, but that, on the contrary, success with the Abkarree Revenue will be considered as more creditable than the timely collection of the Land Revenue, in as much as it is attended with much greater difficulties.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

95. The Civil tribunals of this District consist of—
The Judge's Court.
The Principal Sudder Ameen's Court.
The Sudder Ameen's Court.
Eight Moonsiffs.

96. Considering that the District contains nearly a million and a half of people, the business of the Civil Courts is not heavy. The suits instituted from 1850 to 1852 were as follows:—

	1850	1851	1852
Principal Sudder Ameen	91	52	42
Sudder Ameen	17	55	69
Moonsiffs	2,079	1922	2372

97. I followed up the inquiries I commenced in Cuttack, and found that the system generally prevalent there of deciding cases only in the last two or three weeks of the month exists only in two Offices, and not to any great extent in them; and, though all agree that the Establishments are not strong enough, there is not the impatience under the existing rules, which prevail in Cuttack. The Principal Sudder Ameen with his allowance of Rupees 150 entertains fourteen Officers; Rupees 6 per mensem is the lowest salary. The Sudder Ameen has nine Officers; the lowest salary is Rupees 5; each Moonsiff has six Officers; the lowest salary is Rupees 4. By order of the Judge no Moonsiff is allowed to employ an Officer on a less salary than Rupees 4.

98. In the Principal Sudder Ameen's Court, the average time a regular suit decided on trial is pending, is one year, five months, and fourteen days, the average time for an appeal, four months, seven days, and five hours.

99. In the Sudder Ameen's Court, the average time is eleven months as Sudder Ameen, one year two months and one day as Moonsiff. In the Offices of the remaining seven Moonsiffs, the highest average is eleven months, two days and twelve hours, the lowest is three months, fifteen days and twenty-three hours.

100. On examining the files of the Moonsiffs, some of them appeared so very light, that I represented to the Judge the propriety of reducing the number. Mr. Luke informed me that he had, in 1849, recommended that the Moonsiffships of Pertabpore, Annundpore, and Kaseegunge should be abolished, and the jurisdictions of these three Officers added to other Moonsiffships. The suggestion was not approved, but last year the Sudder Court sanctioned the abolition of Kaseegunge, and directed the jurisdiction of that Moonsiff to be added to the Culmijole jurisdiction. The Judge now quite agrees, that as originally proposed by him in 1849, the Annundpore and Pertabpore Chokies should be abolished, and he submits a Statement showing

that in the last three years, only 278 cases in Chokee Annundpore, and 275 cases in Chokee Pertabpore were actually decided on trial, and, including all the cases tried *ex-parte*, that the average number disposed of each month, allowing nine working months in a year, was in one instance a little in excess of ten, and in the other a little in excess of nine, cases per month.

101. It is now proposed that the Northern part of Chokee Pertabpore should be united with the Lurberria and the Southern part of the Tumlook Chokee, and that the Northern parts of Annundpore should be united with Bugree, and the Southern portion with the Midnapore Chokee. As the Chokees of Bugree and Tumlook are both at the extremities of the District, Mr. Luke proposes that the Offices should be removed to the places indicated in the annexed map. He would bring the Bughree Chokee a few miles further South, and remove the Tumlook Chokee a few miles further West, in order that suitors may not have so far to go. To a certain extent, it certainly is desirable that poor people should not have far to go to obtain justice, but I have a great objection to placing our native Judges alone, where they can obtain no advice, and are not subject to the check which certainly is afforded by several Officers being stationed at the same place. I would allow the Offices to remain where they are, at Bugree and Tumlook, and make an effort to improve Tumlook, at which a Salt Agent, Assistant Deputy Magistrate, Superintendent of Salt Chokees, and a Police Establishment are located.

102. The site of almost all our Bengal Stations has been raised by excavating tanks and spreading the earth taken therefrom, I can see no reason why, what has succeeded elsewhere, should not succeed at Tumlook. I would take possesion of fifteen or twenty acres of land under Regulation I. of 1824, excavate three good tanks, and raise the whole sufficiently to prevent its ever being inundated. The land should then be laid down with grass and carefully drained. Either this should be done, or the whole Establishment removed from Tumlook, for nobody can live there.

103. Great pains have been taken by the Judge to introduce in all the Offices under him, the system of preparing concise issues to be argued by the contending parties. The plan is followed in all the Moonsiff's Offices, and though in the cases I examined, I found an inclination to mix up mention of their proofs with the issues to be tried; before long the reformed system will be completely understood and successfully practised.

104. I found the Judge's records in admirable order, and evidently immense pains and labor had been bestowed upon them; but, as I have said, the room is utterly unfit for a record-room, and the Office should be removed.

105. The map annexed, I found in the bundle of papers connected with the Civil Court, received from your Office. The Judge begs that it may be returned, as the Sudder Court will require it. It would be well to have two copies made and forwarded to those authorities respectively.

2586

106. The Vakeels of the Sudder Ameen's Court complained that the Judge allowed the Vakeels of his own Court. and the Court of the Sudder Ameen, to practise also in the Court to which they were attached, while they were prohibited from attending the Upper Courts. The Judge's orders appear to be in conformity with the rules.

Criminal Justice.

107 The Courts of Criminal Justice are—
The Sessions' Court.
The Magistrate's Court.
The Assistant at Midnapore.
The Deputy Magistrate of Nugwan (powers.)
The Moonsiff of Nugwan, with special powers of Assistant
The Deputy Magistrate at Gurh Beta (powers.)
The Deputy Magistrate at Tumlook with Assistant's powers
The Moulvee Adaulut with powers of Magistrate.

108. The duties of the Sessions, and the Criminal appeals are heavy. During the last three years, the Judge has. each year on an average, been employed 121 days in Session's duties, and the Criminal appeals have been 711. This, added to the duties of the Civil Court, with the Superintendency of a Principal Sudder Ameen, Sudder Ameen, and eight Moonsiffs, is a very arduous Office.

109. As the Criminal Courts are multiplied, of course the business of the Appellate Courts must increase? A sub-division never should be established without the capabilities of the Appellate Court being considered at the same time, and arrangements made for providing timely assistance on the business increasing.

110. Not very many years ago it was supposed. that a Magistrate could perform, with efficiency, all the duties connected with the Criminal Court of the District. Now we have seven Courts, and the Magistrate is of opinion these are not enough to meet the demand with sufficient promptitude.

111. From 1850 to 1853, the average number of persons brought to trial was 3.863, the average number of persons punished was 2,182, The number of witnesses examined was 37,935. Of these 24.295 were detained one day only, and 311 above six days. These figures tell of very heavy business, and very praiseworthy despatch.

112 The Magistrate represents that it is of very little advantage in any respect to vest the Deputy Collector at Tumlook with the mere powers of an Assistant under Regulation IX. of 1807. He would wish the Officer stationed there to have at least the special powers of an Assistant. and he thinks it very desirable that he should have the full powers of Magistrate. Mr Allen, the Officer stationed at Tumlook; is trustworthy and diligent, but he is not a person of any cleverness or energy. Opportunity offering, it certainly would be advisable to remove Mr. Allen to another place, or to appoint an active European or East Indian, Deputy Magistrate at Tumlook.

113. The Magistrate desires to establish another sub-divison in Culmijole, to embrace that Thannah and two Thannahs of Hooghly. There will be no necessity for this, if controlling Police Officers are appointed as I have suggested, and as the proposal is connected with the Hooghly District, with the condition of which I am not informed, I am not in a position to give any opinion as to the necessity of establishing another Criminal Court in that direction.

114. It appears to me that in Districts such as Midnapore, what we most require is Police Officers, not Criminal Judges. Mr. Allen at Tumlook may afford useful assistance in trying petty cases of assault, &c., but the desideratum at Tumlook and the neighbouring Thannahs is a very active superior Police Officer, a taker of thieves, and suppressor of tyranny and oppression, not an Officer to sit in Kutcherry holding trials, but an Officer with a hill tent, a pony, a small elephant, and a Toujon, ready to proceed over any ground, to any place, at any time. He should have a dozen active young men with good arms, and hearts to make use of them. They should be picked, and receive Rupees 7 each, and be called Burkundazes. This Establishment of native Officers should be small, but very well paid, and selected with reference to activity and intelligence. I believe two Officers of this description over six of the worst of the Midnapore Thannahs, would in a year do more towards putting down Dacoity, than any number of Deputy Magistrates.

115. There are already three sub-divisions, Gurh Beta, Nugwan, and Tumlook. The Magistrate would have another in Culmijole and he would give criminal powers to all the Moonsiffs, and to the Superintendent of Salt Chokees at Jellasore.

116. In my opinion it would be advantageous to invest all Moonsiffs with the powers of an Assistant, to admit and try cases of trivial assault and abusive language, and the Sudder Ameen, or Principal Sudder Ameen, might be vested with Magistrate's powers to receive appeals from their decisions, but I would keep the Police, and all matters connected with the Police in separate hands, and make the existing Deputy Magistrates mere Officers of Police over the Darogahs; but it does not appear desirable to lengthen this Report with discussions respecting general reforms. I shall not therfore pursue this subject, nor enter upon several others presented by the Magistrate, *viz.*:—

The necessity of regulating the mode of payment of the Chokeedars.

The expediency of raising the pay of Mohurrirs to Rupees 25.

The expediency of making passable roads to all the Thannahs, and of building the Thannahs of masonry, with a room for the Magistrate

117. That all these reforms would be good reforms no one will deny, and doubtless before long, Chokeedaree reform will be carried out, and a small bungalow at each Thannah fit to afford shelter to the Magistrate will be erected. Good roads to each Thannah, and Thannahs of masonry may be dispensed with, till other more pressing wants have been supplied.

118. The Magistrate recommends that the Deputy Magistrate of Nugwan should remain there throughout the year, instead of coming

tive Police they appear to be extremely inefficient, and the result of the trials shows that their success in bringing offenders to justice, is anything but creditable. Mr. Schalch, who only a few months ago made over charge of the District to Mr. Bright, after having been Magistrate several years, had a high character with the Superintendent of Police, and certainly is a very energetic clever Officer, and the Judge reports most highly of his judgment and discretion, but assuredly the Police under him was not efficient, and, may be, under the existing system, real efficiency is impossible.

131. On the 19th September last, the Magistrate proposed to the Superintendent of Police to reorganize the Town Police by disbanding the whole of the existing Chokeedarree force, and employing in their room seventy-two up-country men to be placed under four Jemadars, and stationed in different parts of the Town. The existing body costs Rupees 200 per mensem, the new Police, on the Magistrate's plan, would cost Rupees 228, and Mr. Bright proposed to provide the difference by paying for the lighting of the Town from the proceeds of the Jail manufacture. As the Superintendent of Police had no authority to sanction such an appropriation of the Jail Funds, he declined to submit the scheme for the approval of Government.

132. I have mentioned in another part of this Report, that the Magistrate after the occurrence of the case of Dacoity with Murder in the Town not far from the Judge's house in June last, brought into the Town 110 of the Mofussil Paik Force, and that they are in the Town still.

133. The Force which the Magistrate proposed to employ, and its disposition, were I think suitable, but it was a mistake to recommend that the whole Force should be composed of up-country men, who, of course, have but a limited knowledge of the language of the District, and who would be of no use whatever as detectives. Out of the eighteen men to be placed at each of the four Chokees, twelve might well be up-country men, the remaining six I would select from the Bengalees now in employ. I consider the lighting of the Town, as it is now lighted, so near useless, as not to be worth any cost. If the funds for improving the Police cannot be provided from any other source, I would give up the lights, and devote the money to payment of the new Burkundazes to be employed.

134. Four Chokee houses must, of course, be erected for the Burkundazes in the most commanding positions.

135. The present Force is one Darogah, one Mohurrir, two Jemadars, thirty-six Burkundazes, and sixty-six Chokeedars. Ten of the Burkundazes are scattered over the Town in ten Pharrees. Such a system never can answer. In this country, a thief or a robber never goes alone, and if he saw them close to him, there is not one Bengallee Burkundaz in a hundred, who, single-handed, would make an endeavor to seize three, or even two men.

136. There appears to be a doubt, whether, as the law stands, the Magistrate has authority to employ Burkundazes on Rupees 4 instead of Chokeedars at Rupees 3, and to make use of them in gangs, instead of distributed in their respective beats; but, as it has been ruled that the Magistrate can apply the proceeds of the tax to cleaning streets,

lighting lamps, and other purposes, *à fortiori* I conclude, he can apply the funds to providing more efficient protection than is procurable from Chokeedars on salaries of Rupees 3 scattered over the Town, and I would allow the Magistrate to carry out his reform.

137. Petitions have again been presented to me against the Chokeedaree assessment in the Town. Especially the Omlah of the several Offices are dissatisfied with it. From the papers made over to me from your Office, it appears that petitions against the assessment have been presented to the Judge, the Superintendent of Police, and the Government. The Judge's letter to your address dated the 9th April 1853, with which the correspondence closed, does not represent the case in the character it has now assumed. The principle on which the Magistrate assessed the Omlah appears to me to be wrong, and unwarranted by the law.

138. They are all assessed at a percentage on their salaries, without any reference to their dwellings, or the extent of interest to be protected. I believe this view of the law to be entirely new. Though several Mohurrirs may inhabit one poor lodging, and each month send their savings to their families in some distant District, they are to pay to the Chokeedaree tax, as they would pay if they spent their income in Midnapore. Of course, the distant house, for the support of which their savings are remitted, is taxed with reference to the size and condition of the tenement, so that, in fact, these persons have to pay the tax twice, and I consider their steadfast opposition by no means unreasonable.

139. But I am inclined to think from what I see and hear, that the opposition to the increased tax in Midnapore is attributable more to the manner in which the money was laid out, than to any impatience of the imposition had the money been really applied to useful purposes.

140. When Dacoities with Murder are committed in the heart of the Town, and the people fear to be supposed to have any lucrative trade or employment, I can perfectly understand their dissatisfaction at seeing Rupees 95 per mensem, which would pay twenty-four stout Burkundazes, laid out, in what is called, lighting the Town.

141. It is true that the well-proportioned puckah pillars, with the iron bar projecting for the lamp-lighter's ladder, look civilized and advanced, but while life and property are considered thoroughly unsafe, I regard this expense on such lights as entirely mistaken. There are ninety lights in about seven miles of street and road; they cannot in any way afford the slightest protection to life or property; they may assist a stranger in finding his way through the streets, and help the Dacoit more than the Chokeedars who know every turn. They may prevent a gentleman who has been dining out, from turning too short and going into the ditch, but though they cost Rupees 95 per mensem, and the lamp post cost Rupees 270, they can be of no use to prevent robberies, or to enable the Police to catch offenders when a robbery has been committed. I would for the present spend no more money in oil, but lay out the 95 Rupees in paying twenty-four Burkundazes, and postpone this lighting till effectual protection shall have restored

confidence, and the funds can afford to light the Town, in a manner really useful.

142. If the orders passed by the Judge on the 10th of December 1852 had been carried into effect, there would have been no reasonable ground for discontent. He writes thus to the Magistrate:—

"On a careful consideration of the law relative to the Chowkeedaree "tax. I cannot agree with you that either the spirit or the letter of "it can carry with it the interpretation you give it, that the tax levied "is an income tax.

"Section VI. Regulation XXII. of 1816, says that the assessment "shall be levied from the proprietor of a house or shop, and in his "absence, from the principal occupiers of such shop or house, from "which it is evident I think, that it is the house or shop. and not the "individual, that is to be assessed. The fact of three or four persons "occupying one house, each having separate means of subsistence, gives "you no power to tax all but only the principal occupier, that is, the person "or persons who lease the house or shop from the proprietor. Many "parties may occupy the same house as friends and relations, all enjoying "separate incomes. and yet one only may be the proprietor, or principal "occupier of it, and responsible for the Chokeedaree tax. Should you "however continue to differ with me in opinion, I shall be happy to "refer the matter for the opinion of higher Authority."

143. But it appears the Magistrate did not carry these orders into effect. The present Magistrate informs me "that in accordance with "the Sessions Judge's letter, of the 10th December 1852, remissions "were made by Mr. Schalch to all applicants who, from their possess-"sing no means of livelihood, were supported by their friends and rela-"tives, and lived in their houses, the land-holder only being taxed, "but in cases where parties receiving separate salaries, or being in good "or affluent circumstances resided in one house, they were all propor-"tionately taxed, in accordance with the intention of the law, as noted "in the Sunnud of appointment of Punchait, under Section X. Regu-"lation XXII. of 1816."

144. The Judge in plain terms directed that when several parties may occupy the same house, as friends and relatives the principal occupier should be considered responsible for the Chokeedaree tax. It behoved the Magistrate to carry out these orders, or, as invited by the Judge, to request that the subject might be referred for the orders of superior Authority. He did neither, but continued to collect the tax as an income tax, from the salaried Officers of the Establishment, without reference to the nature or position of their lodging. The orders of the Judge should be carried out, or be overruled if mistaken.

145. In the Khass Mehals of Midnapore and Hijelee, there are no less than 800 Chokeedars, who are paid monthly by the Magistrate in cash. but Mr Bright informs me that the Police in these Pergunnahs is no more efficient than elsewhere. In Tipperah also, throughout the extensive Government Pergunnahs, the same system had been introduced with a like result The pay is insufficient to procure the services of good men, but they are scattered about as heretofore as mere watch-

men over a certain number of houses. There is no control, no concert of action, and neither prevention of crime, nor successful pursuit of offenders. I am told the Superintendent of Police has ruled that until the law shall have been altered, no other system can be allowed.

146. Chokeedars never will be efficient, either in Towns or Villages, unless employed two or three together, and with Sirdars over each ten or twelve men. Where villages are widely scattered, it may be difficult to bring the Chokeedars together, but when in such cases supposing several hamlets to be all two miles from each other, still I believe, provided there be a Chokeedar's put in each, it would be better to keep Chokeedars together under the Sirdar, and to let them be sometimes in one village, sometimes in another. No native of Bengal acts with efficiency alone; either laziness, or cowardice, or absence of self confidence, makes him quite good for nothing, but he, who alone would be useless, with a companion, with some one to rely on, some one to share the responsiblity, becomes an intelligent, and sometimes a brave Police Officer.

147. Of the twenty-three Police Darogah—

One has been in employ	23 years.
One ditto ditto	21 „
One ditto ditto	20 „
One ditto ditto	19 „
One ditto ditto	15 „
One ditto ditto	

148. The average service of the remaining eighteen is only four years. The Magistrate reports that the increased pay has not hitherto induced a superior class of men to enter the service, but that it has generally had a beneficial effect on the conduct of those in the service. The 1st Class Darogahs especially he has found to be much influenced by the hope of future promotion. The Magistrate makes especial mention of Durasutoolah, the Darogah of the Town, and Munglepersaud Sing, the Darogah of Purtabpore, as being men of superior efficiency.

149. The Police of Pergunnah Jargaon, has always been in the hands of the Raja. It is one of the Jungle Pergunnahs to the West of Midnapore. The Raja from age and infirmities is very desirous of being relieved of the reponsibility, and has several times applied to be exempted from further service. On the subject being referred to the Government, the orders of the 14th June 1848 said, that the Government would be glad to know, if there is any pressing reason other than the wish expressed by the Zemindar for transferring the Police duties from his jurisdiction to that of a paid Establishment.

150. It does not appear by any means clear, whether the Zemindar is bound either to perform the duties himself, or provide for payment of a Police Establishment. The inquiries have not been as complete as they might be. For the present I would direct the Magistrate to call on the Raja to provide a substitute to perform the duties and take the responsibilities during his illness. Should the Raja object and plead that on his relinquishing the post the Government is bound to take the Police into its pay, of course he will produce proofs of his allegations, and complete investigation will be promoted. In the meanwhile the care of the Police will be provided for.

151. The Magistrate represents that more room is required in his Office, but, as I have reported under the heading "Public Buildings," there is no occasion for providing further accommodation.

PAIKS.

152. The establishment of Paiks in this District is a subject which has often attracted attention, but hitherto no attempt has been made to place the Establishment on a better footing, or to bring under assessment the lands of those whose services are not required.

153. Besides Chokeedars, there are in the District 5221 Paiks holding Jagheer lands* of greater or less extent. In some parts it is supposed, that they hold more land than they are entitled to In some the Zemindars have succeeded in appropriating portions of the Jagheers.

The aggregate according to the Magistrate's books is 59,467 beegahs.

154 When the Revenue Survey took place all these Jagheer lands should have been defined, and accurately marked off on the maps, but it appears no attempt was made to show the lands held as Jagheer, and Mr. Terry, the manager on the part of Messrs. Watson, who hold the Pergunnahs in which a considerable portion of the Paik lands is situated, has represented to me that there are such interminable disputes between him and the Paiks, that he is willing to pay half the expense of having their lands measured and defined.

155. The dealings of Messrs. Watson and Co. are always fair and liberal, compared with those of most other land-holders in India, and, on this occasion, their proposals are thoroughly becoming gentlemen character. As I have said, they are willing to pay one-half the cost. They will recognize as Paik land, whatever quantity is entered as Paik land in the Magistrate's papers, and let the Paiks choose it where they please, and should more than the quantity recorded as Paik land be found in the possession of Paiks, they are willing that the Paiks should remain in undisturbed possession, till they shall prove their right to the excess land in the Civil Court.

156. Nothing can be fairer. I recommend that an Officer should be appointed with the powers of a Collector, acting under Regulation VII. of 1822, to enquire into, measure and define all the Paik lands, in the jungle Pergunnahs of the Midnapore District, commencing with the Pergunnahs held by Messrs. Watson and Co. Though the Midnapore Survey is in many respects incorrect; the village boundaries in these Pergunnahs are, for the most part correct; there was no occasion to represent them incorrectly. The Jagheer lands should now be laid down in those maps, as it was intended this should have been at the time of Survey. For this purpose the employment of an Officer, with Assistants having some knowledge of surveying, will be necessary. I recommend that the definition of the Paik lands of the District should be undertaken forthwith.

157. Another section of the subject is the necessity or advisibility of keeping up these Jagheers, when it is notorious that the Paiks for the most part do little, if any service, and that their remuneration, about Rupees 8 each per annum, is so trifling, that it cannot possibly secure to the Government the continued services of all the persons borne on the roll.

158. It is usual on a Paik dying, for his son to succeed to the Jagheer; should he have no heirs, the Zemindar is ordered to appoint a new Paik. No attention is paid to class or caste; there are now to be found among the Paiks, Mahomedans, Hindoos, Boomijes and Sonthals. I would not attempt any general measure of resumption, but as the existing generation of Paiks shall die off, I would introduce a complete change, by bringing the lands under assessment, and paying such of the Paiks as are really required, a salary in money.

159. The Messrs. Watson tell me they would readily pay Rupees 20,000 per annum for the lands held by the Paiks in the Pergunnahs they occupy, which contain about one-third of the whole, but, unless the Paiks possess much more land than they are entitled to, they cannot be worth much more than a third of that sum.

160. It will be necessary to make some arrangement for the management of the lands as they shall fall in. If the Zemindars will take them, it would be well I think to farm the lands to the proprietors or farmers, within whose precincts they may be situated; if not I would have one farm of resumed Paik lands, adding to it each year the lands that fell in, and as soon as the number had decreased sufficiently to provide funds, I would commence with the appointment of salaried Officers, so that each year the Paiks would decrease, the salaried Officers increase, and the Force improve in efficiency.

161. As the existing Force is admitted to be next to useless, some might advocate immediate resumption of the whole of the lands, and the appointment of salaried Police. Messrs. Watson, though not many years ago these Paiks burnt every one of their factories to the ground, would at once take a lease of the lands if resumed, but I was in these parts not long after the Chowaree rebellion, and I was in the forests during the Cole disturbances, and I can advocate no plans which might possibly tend to a renewal of those scenes. We may have to wait forty years for the falling in of the last Jagheer, but I would rather wait double that time, than shoot Paiks. Six months' Chowaree would cost the Government fifty years' purchase of the difference between the yearly value of the Paik lands, and the estimated cost of a paid Force, instead of the Paiks. Though it is said much of the land held by the Paiks is very valuable, I cannot suppose that on the whole the average rental procurable would be more than annas twelve per beegah, or, on the whole, Rupees 42,750. Probably some of the Paiks are in possession of surplus land, which was reclaimed by their ancestors from the forests two or three generations ago, and has been in their undisturbed possession ever since, but I am told, however long their possession may have been, they

could not maintain a title to continued occupation in the Civil Courts.

162. Of the 5,221 men now enrolled, perhaps it might be necessary to retain in the service 500 at Rupees 4, and fifty Jemadars at Rupees 8 each, the whole expense would be Rupees 28,800, and the Magistrate would have at his command 550 useful, instead of 5,221 useless Policemen.

163 If any Paik would agree to pay half jumma for his life and the life of his next heir, the lands to be afterwards subject to assessment at the Pergunnah rate, I would release him at once from all service. I am told that many who hold small Jagheers would accept of these terms, and it is those who are especially useless. There may be some difficulty in arranging respecting the Peshcush, which some of them now pay to the Zemindar, but I see no obstacle which may not easily be overcome by a little negociation It certainly is not desirable that each Paik should have two lords entitled to rent for the same land, the Government and the Zemindar. It might be arranged either that the Zemindar should farm the land and receive both his own tribute and the Government rent, or that the Government should receive and be answerable for the Zemindar's tribute. If the identification and measurement of the Paik lands be placed in the hands of a discreet Officer, I have no doubt of his being able to effect an arrangement, by which we shall by degrees, if not immediately, get rid of a useless disreputable rabble, called Police, and obtain funds for the payment of a Force, from which good service may be expected.

164. I do not find in the proposed new Chokeedaree law, any provision enabling the Magistrate to move the Chokeedars from one place to another, which I conceive to be the greatest of the many wants. I would give the Magistrate authority to move the whole Force where he pleased, or to assemble the whole in one place, if he considered it necessary

165 Of late, in consequence of violent Dacoities in the Town, the Magistrate has brought 110 of these Paiks into the Town to the assistance of the Police I have doubts of the prudence of the arrangement, and am quite sure that it is not fair by the Paiks. With the pittance of Rupees 8 per annum, they may be able to devote some of their time to the service of the Police Department in their own Pergunnahs, but they are not in a position to leave their Pergunnahs and come into Midnapore to do the work of Burkundazes. If the Police must be strengthened it should be strengthened, in my opinion, by the employment temporarily, of an increased number of Burkundazes These unwilling starving Paiks, cannot give any real strength to the Town Establishment.

166. But the Magistrate represents that bringing this Paik Force into the Town has restored confidence, and that the merchants and others are very unwilling that they should be removed; while detained in the Town they should be allowed Rupees 1-8-0 each, and a blanket. I visited all the Chokees in the Town at which they are located, and found them lying nearly naked on the bare ground with their bows and arrows by their sides.

JAIL.

167. The Magistrate desires to divide the Jail into three distinct compartments, so as to separate the prisoners into three classes :—

Those who labor on the roads.

Those employed in manufacturing paper, &c.

Those sentenced to imprisonment without labor.

168. This may be effected by opening an old gateway to the West, for the use of the prisoners employed on the roads, and using the present gateway for the other two classes, but I doubt if the advantages to be gained would not be more than balanced by having a second gate to the Jail; and the classification desired may be accomplished without a second gateway.

169. The arrangements for the female prisoners require alteration; at present they sleep in a ward in the Criminal Jail, and work in a cutcha building situated in one corner of the Jail,* where they are overlooked by a Burkundaz, raised in a sentry box for the purpose. The Magistrate recommends that the working house should be rebuilt of masonry, that the present door should be closed up, and another door opened on the opposite side, by which means the ward for females would be completely separated from the Jail for male convicts. He proposes also that a sleeping room for the women should be added to the existing building.

170. The alterations suggested are all good, and I would carry them all into execution, except that of erecting pucka buildings. I do not think that immediately necessary. I would remove the Burkundaz; it cannot be necessary that he should be placed in a position where he may watch every motion of these unfortunate women. A raised sentry box is an excellent device for watching desperate male convicts. It cannot be necessary to exercise such supervision over females.

171. Inside the Jail is a mud and thatch building, in which the prisoners under trial, cook. This certainly should be removed, for, as represented by the Magistrate, a building of such combustible materials should not be inside the Jail, and the bamboo work of the roof would afford weapons for a large number of prisoners. One of the wards should be assigned to prisoners under trial, and a shed for cooking be erected inside the compound of the ward, after the plan of the Cuttack and Balasore Jails.

172. The Magistrate desires to have another range of workshops, so as to include all the manufactures now carried on in detached houses, where the prisoners have constant opportunity of communicating with persons passing along the road. The Magistrate also desires to have a European Superintendent.

173. If manufactures on a considerable scale are to be promoted, it certainly is desirable to have another range of work-shops, but I have many doubts whether such a European, as is procurable for Rupees 100 per mensem, would be half as useful as a native paid the same sum. It is

* See Plan appended.

too common for public Officers to compare natives on very low salaries with Europeans on a liberal scale of allowance I think it would be a great advantage to increase the pay of Jail Darogahs, and a greater advantage to place Europeans on salaries of Rupees 300 or 400 over the Jails, but if Rupees 300 or 400 cannot be allowed, I should prefer a Native on Rupees 60 or 80 to a European on 100.

174 At present the non laboring prisoners are confined in an old open mosque inside the compound of a ward in which prisoners sentenced by the Session's Judge, are kept. The arrangement is bad, and if the mosque is to be made use of, mat jhaups should be placed against the open window at this season to keep the cold out.

175 The prisoners should be supplied with new mats twice a year instead of once. When I visited the Jail, there was not half of many of the mats left, and that halt was filthy. I am not aware whether the Jail rules provide that all prisoners sentenced to labor in irons should be treated alike. I found some of their beds with as many comforts as Natives enjoying an income of Rupees 8 or 10 per month would have at their homes, pillows warm razais, &c.

176. At Balasore, charpoys have been introduced to the great improvement of the health of the prisoners. There were charpoys in this Jail, and the Surgeon caused them to be dispensed with, as it was found impossible to prevent them swarming with bugs

* *Memo. of the deaths in the Jail for three years*

		Total deaths	Average number of prisoners in confinement in each half year.	
1st half year of 1850	10		784	
2nd do do. of 1850 ..	8	18	591	1375
1st do. do. of 1851 .	8		763	
2nd do. do of 1851 ..	18	26	647	1410
1st do. do. of 1852 .	19		779	
2nd do. do. of 1852 ..	10	29	671	1450
				4235

177. This Jail, which formerly was very unhealthy. is not now more sickly than other Jails,* but I think the floors of the wards should be raised, or the level of the compounds should be lowered At present you walk down into the ward. This must make the wards damp. I would raise the floors by placing bricks on edge and tiles over them.

178. The dietary system has been completely carried out in this Jail.

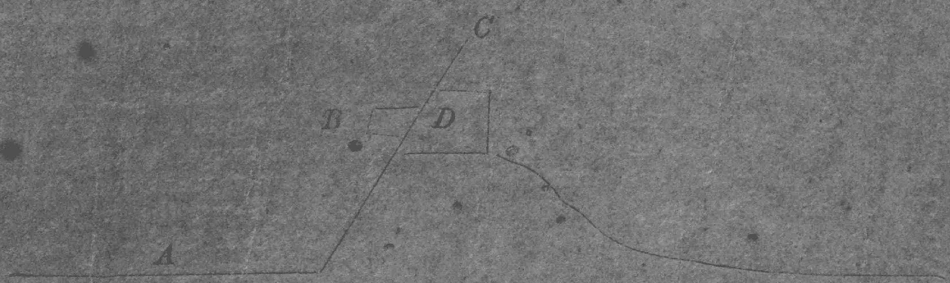
179. I observe from a statement furnished by the Magistrate, that an up-country prisoner costs Rupees 2-5-6 per month, a Bengalee prisoner costs Rupees 1-14-5. The difference, seven annas one pie per month each, is occasioned by allowing the up-country men ottah and ghee, instead of a rice diet. I cannot suppose this expense to be necessary. In some cases when prisoners first arrive from the Western Provinces, it may be necessary to continue their usual food, but by degrees all might be accustomed to the rice diet ; the more generous food should be allowed only when required, in consequence of deranged

health. When a large per-centage of our Sepoys live for the most part on rice when in Bengal, it cannot be necessary systematically to allow prisoners the more expensive article.

180. About half of the prisoners are employed on the roads, and the remainder in manufacturing various articles, among which, as usual, is very bad paper. As I have reported on this subject, I will say no more than that the paper here is prepared by the same objectionable process as the paper in Cuttack.

181. Those who supply the Jail represented to me, that there being but one small opening in the wall, the delay in supplying a large number of persons was such that oftentimes the day had advanced towards noon before all were supplied. It certainly is desirable that further accommodation should be afforded. I see no reason why the opening should not be treble the size. If necessary it might be closed with a door so fitted as to be exactly even with the wall, and affording no assistance to a climber. I conclude it has been found necessary to supply the Midnapore prisoners in this fashion only, through a hole in the top part of the wall, and I would not propose to interfere with it, but a place to supply two at a time is a reasonable request. There has always been a covering made of matting to protect the dealers from the sun while engaged in their traffic. Masons are now employed in raising the wall at this spot; for Rupees 20 or 30 a roof of masonry might be provided, and I would have it constructed.

SECTION.



A Inside of Jail, the Jail is an old fort, and the inside is lower than the outside.

B Hole in the wall through which the supplies are put.

C Top of the wall.

D The place where the seller stands, which it is proposed to enlarge.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

182. The Magistrate represented that his Offices were crowded, and he has lately applied for accomodations for prisoners under trial, the cost of which was estimated by the Executive Engineer at Rupees

700-0-0. I recommend that all the records of Criminal trials previous to 1830, and all the Darogah's reports previous to 1840, should be immediately burnt. There are accumulated in this Office the records of all trials since 1800. When these useless papers shall have been destroyed, the Magistrate will have a room 40 by 18 to dispose of, for his records, which now occupy two rooms, will then only occupy one. The separate building now occupied by the Collector's tents should be transferred to the Magistrate, for his hajut prisoners. The Collector should hang his tents in the Verandah of his Office, not touching the ceiling but so near that the rain will not beat on them. They should be hoisted by a rope over hooks, or by means of a small pulley fastened to hooks in the beams, so that without any trouble they can be lowered, examined, and dried.

183. The 700 Rupees Estimate for the Hajut, and about Rupees 300 in addition should be expended in erecting a puckah guard-room, to the South of the Kutcherry range, and distant about 30 yards. The present guard-room is a thatched building, only a few feet from this excellent range of Kutcherries. A spark from a Sepoy's hookha, might cause the destruction of the whole.

184. The present Salt Kutcherry, which is close to the Collector's Office, should be transferred to the Collector for the use of the Abkarree Department, and the existing Abkarree Office may be allotted to the Superintendent of Salt Chokees. The Superintendent should never keep any money in his Office, but each day send his cash balance to the Collector. By this means all will be accomodated, the room required will be provided; and we shall get rid of the thatched guard-house, which is the only objection to this most suitable range of public Offices.

185. The Judge and the Principal Sudder Ameen sit in a house close to the Judge's residence, and the Sudder Ameen in a small mud house, a small distance off. The Court-house is convenient, but the record rooms and the writer's rooms are entirely unfit for public Offices, and especially for record rooms. The floors, the walls, the roofs, are all full of white ants. The walls are made of brick with mud instead of mortar—the roof is in a bad state throughout, in parts is quite unsafe. It would be useless to put on a new roof; in six months all the beams would again be full of white ants. The Government pay Rupees 104 per mensem for these buildings. I beg to recommend that a new Kutcherry for the Judge be built near the range of Offices occupied by the Collector, Magistrate, and other Officers. To the North of the range, distant about 80 paces, there is a site admirably suited to the purpose, about 30 yards South of the large tank. It is considerably higher than the ground on which the range of Offices stands, so that the free current of air will not be impeded. The Executive Engineer assures me that he can provide ample accomodation for the Judge, the Principal Sudder Ameen, the Sudder Ameen, records and Omlah at an outlay of Rupees 15,000, if the building is on the same plan as the great range of Offices, *i. e.*, the plan lately adopted for the standard Kutcherries in the Revenue Department.

186. Annexed is the plan of the range. The proposed Judge's Office will be composed of rooms corresponding exactly with the eleven rooms marked in dark pencil. The advantages of the plan will be these. The Government now pay Rupees 104-0-0 per mensem for the Office, or Rupees 1248-0-0 per annum. The interest of Rupees 15,000 at 4 per cent. is Rupees 600, the quinquennial repairs certainly would not come to Rupees 2592-0-0, the difference between four years' rent as now paid, and four year's interest on the outlay, and there will be a further saving for the Judge's guard, which now costs Rupees 54 per mensem will not all be required. The records would be safe, instead of being unsafe. All the Offices would be near each other, which is an immense convenience to all, especially with reference to the new system of cash account, according to which the Judge banks with the Collector.

187. The white ants are worse in this place than in any place I have seen. In the Circuit house, in which I am now writing, though it is very well raised, the ants have, in the few days during which I have been here, built a mound a foot high. The floor of the record room should be protected so as to make it impossible for white ants to get through. Laying the floor with zinc, I believe to be the safest plan. The beams should be Iron.

188. The public buildings are in good condition, that is, those belonging to the Government. I have already said that the building occupied by the Judge's records is in very bad condition. All the Government property has the appearance of being cared for and is clean and creditable.

SALT CHOKEES.

189. The north-east, east, south, south-west, and centre Pergunnahs of this District are all covered with Salt Chokees. There are no less than twenty-nine Chokees, six under the Salt Agent of Tumlook, six under the Salt Agent of Hijelee, nine under the Superintendent of Midnapore Chokees, and eight under the Superintendent stationed at Jellasore.

190. There are four descriptions of Chokees kept up for four different purposes. The Chokees under the Salt Agents of Tumlook and Hijelee, are for the purpose of preventing salt being removed from the manufacturing Aurungs to other parts of the District. At each of these Chokees, salt is sold on account of Government at the rate of Rupees 2-8 to 2-12 per maund. Of the Chokees under the Superintendent of Midnapore two are called Coot Chokees, their chief business being to see that salt is not illicitly removed from the Government Golahs in Tumlook. The Officers are expected to visit each merchant's boat as it passes, and ascertain that he has no more salt than is covered by Rowanah. The remaining Chokees, under the Midnapore Superintendent are for the purpose of preventing the salt sold in Tumlook and Hijelee at Rupees 2-12 per maund, from being carried westward into that part of the District, which ought to be supplied by Rowanah merchants. No salt can be sold in the villages which compose this cordon, except under the immediate surveillance of the Superintendent, and the Officers of his establishment. The Chokees under the Jellasore Superintendent are to prevent the salt from the Hijelee Aurungs and the Salt from Balasore and Mohur-

bunge being introduced into the centre Pergunnahs of the Midnapore District.

190½. A Sketch is annexed, showing the position of all these Chokees. Those under the Salt Agent of Tumlook are green. Those under the Salt Agent of Hijelee, are yellow. Those under the Superintendent of Midnapore, are pink. Those under the Superintendent of Jellasore are blue.

191. The green and the yellow Chokees are those kept up to prevent Molunghees smuggling their own salt, and to supply all the inhabitants of the Hijelee District with salt at such a moderate rate, as shall prevent there being such a demand for a cheaper article as to induce the Molunghees to conceal a portion of that they make, and run it out of the Aurungs. The returns show that these Chokees fail in the object for which they were established. The sales at all the Chokees including Seebpore and Agrachar, which, though not in the District, may supply some of the inhabitants, are only 22,482 maunds per annum. The inhabitants may be 3,00,000, who at the rate of 8 seers each, must consume 60,000 maunds of salt per annum. It follows that, notwithstanding these Chokees 37,518 maunds of salt are each year smuggled from the Aurungs into the District. The result in Tumlook is better than in Hijelee, where the sales in the Chokees under the Agent in 1852-53 reached only 29,291.

191½. The Salt Agent in a report dated the 4th August 1853, recommended that the Hijelee Chokees should be considerably strengthened, at an increased expense of Rupees 301-8 0 per month. Even with the increase proposed, the establishment will not be equal to the efficient performance of the duties expected of them. For Chokee Contai, the new establishment is to be a Darogah, a Jemadar, eight Chuppiassees, and twenty Chokeedars. They are to watch over Golah Russulpore, and guard 180 square miles of country, embracing their salt Aurungs, in which from 3,50 000 to 4,00,000 maunds of salt is manufactured.

192. As I have said, the inner circle is to prevent the salt sold cheap at these Chokees from passing into the Rowanah part of the District, but it appears that as regards Hijelee, the sales amount to under 3,000 maunds, so that there is but little of that salt to pass. The smuggler with whom the Chokees of the inner circle have to deal is the smuggler who ought to have been stopped by the outer or Aurung circle of Chokees. It cannot be believed that a smuggler will be content with something under Rupees 2 12-0* for his load, when by running it a mile further he may get something under Rupees 4-1-0†. If any thing like the quantity I have estimated, 37,518 maunds, is smuggled from the Aurungs into the District, where illicit salt is sold at Rupees 2-12-0, there must be also a very large quantity carried across that country, to where it is sold at Rupees 4-1-0.

193. In a note he was good enough to prepare for me, the late Controller Mr. Bidwell, expresses an opinion that the superintendency of the Aurung Chokees, should be transferred from the Salt Agents to the Cho-

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* The Chokee price.

† The usual price in the Rowanah part of the District.

kee Superintendents. I entirely concur with him, and I would transfer Putashpore and Kateeggur, the southernmost of the Midnapore Chokees, to the Jellasore Superintendency. I would at the same time suggest for the consideration of the Controller and the Superintendents, whether the Chokees of the inner circle could not, with much advantage, be brought closer to the Aurungs, and into more immediate concert of action with the Aurung Chokees.

194. The object of the western Chokees under the Midnapore Superintendency is to prevent the salt which the Mohurbunge Raja obtains at the Busteh Golah in Balasore at the rate of Rupees 2-2-0, being run into the Midnapore District. Salt can be conveyed from Busteh to the Mohurbunge boundary opposite the Gopeebullubpore Chokee about Rupees 4 per maund, so that on arriving there, it has cost only Rupees 2-6-0, whereas the price at that Chokee is Rupees 4-0-0. A man, who has succeeded in smuggling one bullock load across may be idle for the remainder of the month. There cannot be a doubt, that the most effectual method of stopping the smuggling would be to raise the price paid by the Raja of Mohurbunge for his salt. As his Mehal is settled at a pepper-corn rent in perpetuity, there does not appear to be any very good reason why his subjects on his side of the Sabenreeka, should have their salt at Rupees 2-6-0, while our subjects, on the north side, pay at the Chokee Rupees 4-0-0.

195. It having been discovered that the late Superintendent of Jellasore, Mr. Campbell, allowed a large quantity of salt to be sold at his Chokees for consumption in the Rowanah villages, the price at those Chokees was at the beginning of the year considerably increased. The sales have consequently fallen off about half, and I have no means of telling whether the supply has been made up by the sales of Rowanah merchants, or whether it has been brought from Mohurbunge. The decrease has been so considerable, and so immediate, that I have little doubt of its having come from Mohurbunge. The Superintendent informs me that from several seizures actually made, he has no doubt that large quantities of salt are crossed from that direction. To the best of my recollection we are not bound to supply the Mohurbunge Raja with salt at any particular price. If we are not, I would recommend that it be intimated to him that if the smuggling into the Chokees on the Sabenreeka continues, the extent of which will be judged by the sales at the Chokees, the propriety of increasing the price to him at Busteh, so as to prevent his people underselling the Chokees on this side of the river, must be considered.

196. The Superintendent of Jellasore desires to again decrease the price at his Chokees. He would reduce the price—

At Jellasore	from	...	Rupees	2	10	0	to	2	8	0
,, Kaleapore	,,	...	,,	2	12	0	to	2	8	0
,, Dantoon	,,	...	,,	3	6	0	to	2	12	0
,, Seebpore	,,	...	,,	2	12	0	to	2	10	0
,, Koolbunnee	,,	...	,,	3	10	0	to	2	14	0
,, Gopeebullubpore		...	,,	4	0	0	to	3	0	0
,, Sambonnee	,,	...	,,	4	0	0	to	3	2	0

197 The Superintendent represents that no exertion can prevent smuggling, when there is nothing but an imaginary line between the country under his Chokees, and that under the Agents of Hijelee and Balasore. He instances that just opposite Jellasore, where his price is Rupees 2-12-0, the Balasore salt is sold at Rajghat at Rupees 2-8-0, and that at Dantoon, which is but ten miles from Rajghat, his price is Rupees 3-6-0. A maund of salt may be carried ten miles. for something less than two annas, making the price of Balasore salt at Dantoon Rupees 2-10-0. Of course the smuggler must always sell at less than the Government rate; if he sells at Dantoon at Rupees 3-2-0, he clears eight annas per maund.

198 The whole system is a concatenation of difficulties and inconsistencies, of endeavors to reconcile things irreconcileable. The rates were altered in 1851, they were altered in 1853, and now the Superintendent desires more alterations. The object of regulating the price of salt from Golahs near the Aurung, so as to lessen the temptation to smuggling from the Aurungs, and gradually so to increase the price, as the distance from the Aurungs increases, that the salt so sold, shall meet the Rowanah salt on equal terms, is not I believe to be obtained. If it were not for the difficulty occasioned by the Balasore salt, I should recommend the immediate abandonment of the existing system, and the concentration of the whole Chokee force in and about the Salt Aurungs of Tumlook and Hijelee under the Superintendents, but the system prevailing at Balasore under which salt is sold all over the District at Rupees 2 and 2-2-0, would render this plan futile unless a very strong patrol was at the same time established all along the Sabemeeka to Rajghat, and the price of the salt sold to Mohurbunge increased to Rupees 3-2-0 per maund. One of the greatest objections to the prevailing system, is the very large tract of country throughout which the continued interference of Chokee Officers in every transaction is permitted. In the Midnapore District alone, including Hijelee, the extent of country subject to all the vexations of Chokee control appears to be 16,000 square miles, containing about 4,20 800 people.

199. I greatly object to what are called the Coot Stations. They must subject the salt merchants to great detention, annoyances, and expenses, and raise the price of salt throughout the country. Could implicit confidence be placed on the Golah Officers, this gaging and examining of cargoes would not be necessary. I would raise the pay of the Golah Darogahs to such a standard as would secure the services of persons in whom implicit confidence could be placed, and then implicitly trust them, and do away with all cooting. It is currently said that there is almost always surplus salt in the Golahs. The Darogahs in order to secure themselves, insist on the salt being delivered at such weight, as shall, without the possibility of failure, save them from any responsibility connected with excess wastage. On a surplus becoming visible, as the stock decreases, it is got rid of by allowing all buyers on payment of a fee to take such full weight as shall just keep the cargo within the egal surplus of 2½ per cent; on the whole, I would try placing persons in the Golahs who would systematically endeavor to

take and give fair weight. If such persons could not be procured without paying salaries of Rupees 1000 per mensem, I would give such salaries. They would amount to a trifling per-centage on Golahs, where the receipts and deliveries are from 7 to 9 lacs of maunds of salt per annum.

199½. Since the foregoing paragraphs respecting the Midnapore Salt Chokees were written, I have traversed the whole of Dolboom from east to west, some fifty miles. The whole of this Pergunnah is supplied with salt from Mohurbunge. There is a considerable Golah at Sirsa on the south bank of the Sabenreeka in Mohurbunge, from whence Beeparrees purchase it at Rupees 3-4-0 per maund. Sirsa is about 60 miles from Busteh, salt sold at Rupees 2-2-0 at Busteh would cost the merchant about Rupees 2-7-0 at Sirsa. He has to pay a certain tax to the Mohurbunge Raja, and to provide for his own fair profits. The Raja's demand must be heavy to bring the price up to Rupees 3-4-0. Sirsa is 16 miles from the Gopeebullubpore Chokee, where the price is fixed at Rupees 4-0-0. If the salt supplied to the Raja of Mohurbunge is priced at Rupees 3-2-0 per maund, the cost at Sirsa will be about Rupees 3-7-0, the Raja's tax, and the merchant's profit, added, will make it nearly equal in price to the salt of Mohurbunge.

Midnapore Alms House.

200. This Institution was established in 1835. It was resolved at a meeting of European and Native Gentlemen held in April of that year, that a Society should be formed for the relief of the sick, helpless, and infirm, to be called the "Midnapore Charitable Society."

201. The funds raised by subscription were considerable. After paying for the existing building, Rupees 5,000 has at different times been invested in Government Promissory Notes, the interest of which forms part of the income of the Institution.

202. In 1845, the Government sanctioned the supply of medicines and surgical instruments, and appointed a Sub-Assistant Surgeon to the charge of the establishment, which is now called the "Midnapore Alms-House and Dispensary." The relief afforded is extensive. For the year ending 30th June last, it was as follows:—

In-door patients	239
Out-door patients..	6,840
Treated at Cholera Stations	245
	7,324

203. In connection with the Dispensary, two Vaccinators have been appointed by the Government, with salaries of Rupees 10 per mensem each.

204. The income from all sources averages Rupees 90 per mensem. The expenditure, the strictest economy being exercised, does not exceed the income.

Two native Doctors receive Rupees 8 per mensem each

The patients' food costs Rupees 45 per mensem.

The remaining funds are expended in contingencies, blankets, repairs to buildings, &c.

205. The Civil Assistant Surgeon is the Superintendent, the Sub-Assistant Surgeon has the general and more direct management of the Institution Dr. Issenchunder Gungoolee, the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, is reported to be most attentive to his duties, to take great interest in the Institution, and to be an honor to the College at which he was educated.

206. Though the Institution is a good one, some improvements are urgently called for.

There should be separate rooms, or a separate room for females.

A female attendant should be appointed.

207. The Committee are desirous of having a separate building for lepers I do not give this proposal my support. A disabled leper may be assisted as an out-door patient It is mischievous to encourage the prevailing inclination to make outcasts of all lepers. Many lepers have as goood health as other people, and are just as well qualified for all manner of work.

208. Increased means of usefulness would be well applied by the Committee of Management, and I earnestly recommend favorable consideration of a Report lately submitted to Government by the Board of Revenue, proposing the restitution of a small estate, called Nuzzurgunge, given in olden times by a Native Gentlemen to a former Collector, by whom it was regularly devoted to charitable purposes, registered in the Bazeezumeen Dufter, and made over to the trusteeship of the Collector for the time being. The Collector has, I think, satisfactorily shown in his elaborate Report, that the Government by whom the proceeds are now appropriated, has not a shadow of right, either in law or equity, to the proceeds, and I trust the recommendation for the relinquishment of the Mehal to this very useful Institution, will be sanctioned.

SCHOOLS.

209. There are four Schools, one English, and three Vernacular Schools.

210. The English School is at Midnapore, the Vernacular Schools at Midnapore, Gugnessur 20 miles south from Midnapore; and Loknath 50 miles south of Midnapore.

211. From September 1851 to August 1853, the average number on the books of the English School was 136, the average attendance was 104

212. The Committee consists of six persons. Between September 1851 and August 1853, there were twenty-seven meetings, the average at which, was 3-½.

213. The system of education is the interrogative.

214. The re-appointment of a Pundit to the English School is earnestly recommended. The present masters devote seven hours per week to the Vernacular, but they are not proficient Bengalee scholars, and consequently the mother tongue of the boys is insufficiently attended to. The Committee represent that this neglect of the Bengallee language greatly impairs the usefulness of the Institution, for only those boys who have considerable natural talent, can expect in after-life to experience much practical benefit from the acquisition of the English language, while the want of a knowledge of the Bengalee may be very injurious to all the rest.

215. I agree in these remarks as far as they regard all the junior classes of the School. I would re-appoint a Pundit to instruct all except the senior class.

216. A thatched verandah on wooden posts should be built to the east, south and west of the School-house, it should be high and wide, so as to keep off the heat, without keeping out much light. A skylight would be a great improvement, both for the sake of light and ventillation.

217. The Committee wish to have two gates to the compound, to prevent the cattle from coming in and injuring the premises If they are allowed, there should be a turn-stile for the ingress and egress of the boys, or the gates would always be open. A Privy is absolutely necessary, at present there is nothing of the sort.

218. Previous to the appointment of the present Pundit, Loknath Surma in 1849, the Midnapore Vernacular School had fallen into disrepute, and the number of boys was eleven only. With a view to restore its character the Government raised the salary attached to the situation of head Pundit to Rupees 30. But previous to the receipt of the orders, which bear date the 8th March 1848, the Pundit now in charge of the School had been appointed on a salary of Rupees 15, afterwards increased by the Board of Revenue to Rupees 20. As the services of the Pundit had been procured for Rupees 15 per month without any promise of increase, it was not considered necessary to carry out the orders of the Government in his favor, though the Collector and the Committee have frequently represented that the Government had authorized a salary of Rupees 30 for a fully qualified teacher, and he had proved himself to be eminently qualified in every respect. He is a Pundit educated at the Calcutta Sanscrit College, is of excellent character and qualifications, and at once secured the respect of the community.

219. Last year there were 146 boys in the School. This year the number has been reduced to 106; sixteen have gone to the English School, the remainder died, or were removed when the Cholera visited Midnapore during the hot months of the year.

220. The Committee have again recommended that the salary sanctioned should be given to the Pundit. He has raised the School from very bad to very good repute. If Rupees 30 is considered fit remuneration for the person at the head of this establishment, I certainly do not approve the refusal to give it to the present most deserving incumbent, merely because his services were procured previous to the receipt of the orders which declared that sum to be suitable pay for the Office in which he had been placed.

221. There are two Assistant Pundits who divide the fees between them, which yield to each an income of Rupees 3-5-0 per mensem.

222. The Committee desire the appointment of a second Pundit on Rupees 10, and would raise from 1 anna to 2 annas the fees paid by the two senior classes, and by others who, in the opinion of the Committee, are able to pay the higher rate, in order to provide suitable remuneration for the third Pundit, and to enable them to provide a fourth should it be necessary.

223. I would appoint a second Pundit on Rupees 10, and increase to 2 annas the fees paid by the two higher classes, but I would not increase the fees on such of the remaining boys who appeared to be in a condition to pay the demand. These inquisitions and distinctions always do harm; assuredly they would produce dissatisfaction and disgust, and greatly injure instead of benefit the School.

224. There are 48 boys on the book of the Gugnessur School, which is in a very flourishing condition, with Rupees 172-7-5 surplus fees in hand.

225. The Loknath School has been recently established, Sheebnarain Roy Mohashoy having provided the house There are already 27 boys on the list, and a further increase is expected. Mr. Cockburn speaks highly of the liberal conduct of the Mohashoy in connexion with the Establishment. As he was for many years a ward of my own, and I took some trouble in his education, this report of his conduct has afforded me much gratification.

226. Though not exactly in place here, I should mention that he complained to me that, though always treated with consideration and respect by the authorities of Midnapore, those of Balasore had ceased to address him on the terms of respect always made use of in addressing his ancestors, and if his presence was required at Balasore, instead of addressing a Perwannah to him requesting or desiring his attendance, the Darogah was directed to send him in. It is very desirable that the Mofussil authorities should endeavor to increase the influence of such landholders of respectable station in their Districts as are likely to use such influence to do good, and I trust the authorities at Balasore should be instructed whenever it may be necessary to address orders to Sheebnarain Roy Mahashoy to make use of the terms in which orders have always till lately been communicated to members of his family.

227. There certainly is a strong desire for improved education growing up in this District. The Committee are of opinion that at present no more English Schools could be established with any prospect of success commensurate with the cost, but it is recommended that a Vernacular School should be established at Nugwan The proposal has not been approved by the Council of Education, but I think good reasons are given for establishing a Vernacular School at this place, the people in the neighbourhood are willing to build a School-house. There are many large and populous villages near. Nugwan is the head quarters of a Deputy Magistrate, a Deputy Collector, and a Moonsiff, there will be no difficult in getting a good Local Committee. The Hijelee people are even more ignorant than their neighbours, and the country is so unhealthy, that al

not used to the climate from their childhood suffer from it, consequently it is very difficult to find qualified persons to fill the the various ministerial Offices in the District. It is, on many considerations, desirable to train up people of the District, so as to fit them for the public service, rather than that foreigners, should monopolize the advantage it holds out, and the authorities be constantly embarrassed from the difficulty of finding qualified persons to take Office in the District.

228. I recommend the Commitee's proposal to favorable consideration.

229. I should not omit to make mention of an English and Vernacular School established at Tumlook, and supported by private subscription, chiefly through the encouragement and influence of the Salt Agent. Though opened so lately as the 1st May 1852, on the 30th April 1853, there were 81 boys on the Register. This is confirmatory of the Committee's representations that a strong desire to obtain knowledge is rising in the District.

Post Office.

230. I find little connected with the Post Office requiring notice. The Magistrate having so lately as the 9th December last, reported to Government, respecting the Mofussil Dawks, it is unnecessary for me to repeat what he has already said. The only subject requiring particular observation is the extraordinary success in collecting the postage of all the letters delivered by the District Dawks.

231. On the arrival of letters addressed to individuals residing beyond the limits of the ordinary delivery, they are made up into a Packet with a "Chullan," and forwarded to the Darogah of the Town, who, having received the packet, returns the "Chullan" accepted to the Post Office. The Darogah retains the letters for his own circle, and forwards the remainder to the other Thannahs for delivery, accounting for the postage of the letters retained, in a monthly statement, and in the same manner, the Darogahs of the Mofussil Thannahs account for the postage of the letters received by them from the Darogahs of the Town. The outstanding balance at this time is but Rupees 3-1-0. This successful management is very creditable to the Midnapore authorities.

Public Library.

232. I must not omit to make mention of the Midnapore Public Library, for I think it affords an example which might be followed with much advantage at all large Stations.

233. The Library owes its existence to the exertions and the liberality of Mr. Henry Bayley, late Collector of this District, whose mind is always busy in endeavouring to devise schemes for improving the condition of those over whom he may be placed.

234. A subscription was made amounting to Rupees 2,700-0-0. The building cost Rupees 1,658-15-7. The land on which it stands was presented by Nussur Allee Khan. It was formally opened in October 1852. The number of volumes now in the Library is 1,870. There are at present fourteen European, and thirty-one Native subscribers. There are two classes of subscribers. The first class subscribe 1 Rupee per mensem, the second class 8 annas. During the past year 670 volumes were issued, 529 to Native Subscribers, 161 to Europeans. There is a Committee of Management, consisting of Mr. Cockburn, President, three Mahomedan, and three Hindoo Members.

235. The Committee have requested me to solicit the Government to countenance and encourage this Institution by directing that it be furnished with a copy of the *Bengalee Government Gazette*, the Sudder and Zillah Decisions, the Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government, Bennett's map of the Dak routes, and copy of each of the works which may in future be published by or under the countenance of the Bengal Government.

236. I cordially support the request of the Committee, and, as I think it very desirable that the approval by the Government of the move that has been made should be more marked than it would be by merely acceding to the Committee's request, I suggest that as a token of approval of Mr. Bayley's conduct, and as encouragement to others, a present of books to the amount of Rupees 500 should be bestowed on the Library.

237 I would further recommend, that the Commissioners of Revenue be directed to endeavour to effect the establishment of such Institutions at their head-quarters at all events, and at other large stations, if circumstances are favorable to the project. Good libraries would soon be formed. An Officer would never leave the station without presenting some books.

238. It would oftentimes prevent good books being sold for a trifle to those who make no use of them, and allow them to rot for want of care, instead of being useful to a considerable circle of readers.

239. I commend the subject generally to favorable consideration. If it were signified that, on a certain sum being subscribed, a building secured, and a monthly subscription provided, the Government would afford the assistance now solicited by the Midnapore Committee, it might encourage local Officers to endeavor to follow the example set by Mr. Bayley.

I visited the Midnapore reading-room, and found it in every respect suitably arranged and appointed. There is a Librarian who receives Rupees 10 per mensem.

Duties of the Government Pleaders.

240. The Judge of Midnapore concurs in every respect with the Judge of Cuttack respecting the inadequacy of the remuneration allowed the Government Pleaders, especially with reference to the recent orders directing that they should attend and prosecute every case committed to the Sessions Court. The Judge of Midnapore

says:—"Respectable men have hitherto been found willing to retain the "Office, even at a pecuniary sacrifice, as they imagine it gives them "a status which ensures a certain quantity of employment, by those "who resort to the Court, but it is not creditable to a liberal Govern-"ment that it should exact zealous and efficient services from its "Officers without adequate remuneration," and I fully concur with Mr. "Gilmore, that Rupees 50 per mensem, exclusive of two Mohurrirs, who "should be added to the establishment, is the minimum salary that "should be given to a Government Pleader." Mr. Luke further states, that at present the whole of the salary allowed the Government Pleaders is absorbed in the employment of Mohurrirs, whose services are indispensably necessary, to enable him to get through the duties required of him.

241. Annexed is a statement submitted by the Judge of Midnapore, detailing the duties to be performed by the Government Pleader The subject appears to me to require immediate attention It certainly is desirable that the Government should always have the services of the most able Pleader at each Court, but if the Pleader is to pass the greater part of his time in attendance in the Sessions Court, and consequently lose his practice in the Civil Court, and, besides that, have to expend his whole salary in providing Mohurrirs to assist in the performance of the multifarious duties demanded of him, the Government will have to accept the services of second or third-rate vakeels, and in all probability suffer considerable pecuniary losses.

242. Instead of very largely increased fixed salaries, it might be advantageous to give liberal fees in all cases of all sorts conducted by the Pleaders, otherwise than Regular Civil suits, to be double or trebled in cases conducted to a successful issue.

Ferry Fund.

243. The Ferry Fund is administered by a Committee. The sums allotted to the District of Midnapore, for the last three years have been as follows:—

	Rs.	As.	P.
1849-50	3,148	5	6¼
1850-51	3,436	14	10
1851-52	3,216	12	9¾

244. The Funds have been, for the most part, expended in improving the road between Midnapore and Paunchkora Ghat. As I have under the head "Roads" mentioned in detail the principal roads of the District, and submitted proposals for improving them, further particulars under this heading are uncalled for.

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258. Having reported on all the Districts of the Cuttack Division, it behoves me to state for the information of the Most Noble the Governor General, that I have experienced the most cordial assistance from all the Public Officers in all Departments. If the information contained in my Reports is not as full as it might be, if more was required, it is my fault, not theirs. They have, with the utmost readiness, replied to every requisition; they have endeavored to anticipate what information would be useful, and volunteered to provide it, and they have received repeated applications for further, and still further, returns, when considered needful, without a single instance of impatience being shown When all have so heartily endeavored to carry into effect the orders communicated to them, it would be invidious to particularize. I feel greatly obliged to all, and I hope his Lordship will see fit to cause this my testimony to their cordial alacrity in obeying his directions to be communicated to them, with such further notice as may be considered deserved.

259. I may as well in this place say, that I have purposely carefully avoided introducing into these reports any common statistical information which I knew to be in Calcutta, and if not actually in the Government Office, procurable in half an hour from the Offices at the Presidency.

HENRY RICKETTS.

CHAIBASSA IN SINGHBOOM; 11*th January* 1854.

MEMO. OF DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER.

Regular suits in which Government is a party relating to—

- Collector of Midnapore.
- Salt Agent of Tumlook.
- Salt Agent of Hijlee.
- Magistrate of Midnapore.
- Executive Engineer of Ditto.
- Salt Superintendent of Jellasore.

Preparation of pleadings in original and appeal cases.
Applications for Copies of papers required.
Preparation of Copies of such papers through his "Mohurir" from the Record Offices.
Submission of Pleadings with urzee for approval.
Fair Copying and filing when approved.
Information of the same by urzee.
Preparation of issues for approval with urzee.
Filing when approved, and informing by urzee.
Preparation of two Copies of English Decisions, one for transmission to Legal Remembrancer, and to the authority whom it relates.
Other Duties [illegible] Flyleaf.

EXECUTION OF DECREE.

Preparation of Petitions for execution, applications for issue of process, [illegible] by urzee.
[illegible] for list of judgment debtor's property.
[illegible] with the petition when received.
[illegible] by urzee of having done so.
[illegible] measures for attachment and sale of the same.
[illegible] evidence and presenting Petitions in cases of claim.
Giving information to the authorities from time to time of the steps taken during execution.
Presentation of Receipts with Petitions for money realized.
Presentation of Checks at Collectorate.
Remittance of money with urzee to the authority to whom it relates.
Submitting kyfeeuts in detail to Legal Remembrancer of *all* suits in which Government is a party; said kyfeeuts containing the substance of the Pleadings, &c.
Petitions to Commissioner, Government Solicitor, and Controller on matters connected with suits.
Annual statements of Regular, appeal, and Decreeuree cases, miscellaneous, Court of Wards.
Duties relating to realization of stamp Fees, the same as in execution of Decree.

Miscellaneous.

Relating to Collector, Executive Engineer.
Salt and Abkarry Superintendent of Midnapore.
Salt Agent of Tumlook.
Ditto of Hijelee.
Salt Superintendent of Jellasore.
Petition of claims on the part of Government sent for approval.
Fair copied and filed when approved.
Information given by urzee.
Petitions to Magistrate in numerous cases in which Government is prosecutor.
Pleading at his Court.
Pleading at the Sessions Court in the same cases.
Prosecution of Darogahs of Embankments for materials entrusted to them.
Ditto ditto for bribery.
Ditto ditto for accounts and papers.
Ditto ditto for rents realized by them, and withheld.
Taking measures in cases of Intestate Property.
Applications for diet allowance of Prisoners of Salt Department.
Ditto ditto of other Defendants.
Depositing the same with urzee.
Applying for refund of the same on release.

Moonsiff's Courts.

Preparation of Wackalutnamahs in the name of one of the pleaders of those Courts.
Preparation of pleadings to be filed by them. Letters of Instruction to them from time to time.

Sessions.

Prosecution on the part of Government in all cases committed by them.
Magistrate, Deputy Magistrate of Gurh Beta.
Ditto of Nugwan.
Law Officer and General Superintendent for suppression of Thuggee.
Petition with certificate granted by Judge under Circular Order No. 10, dated 6th August 1852, to the Officers from whose commitments are preferred to Nizamut Adawlut.

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Draft Book of Urzees.
Copy Ditto.
Register.
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Ditto of Purwannahs received.
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W. LUKE,

Judge.

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H. RICKETTS, ESQUIRE,
Member of the Board of Revenue, (on deputation)

To

CECIL BEADON, ESQUIRE,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

FORT WILLIAM.

Dated Camp Ramghur, the 18th February 1854

SIR,

THOUGH I long since submitted my Report on the Midnapore District, I am unwilling to withhold the annexed Memorandum on the Police of Midnapore, received from Lieutenant Keighly, late Assistant Superintendent Thuggee, stationed in that District.

2. Lieutenant Keighly had opportunities of making himself acquainted with the merits and demerits of the Midnapore Police Force, and he corroborates all I said in my Report, of the utter inefficiency and uselessness of the Paiks.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obdt. Servant,
HENRY RICKETTS,
Member of the Board of Revenue,
(On deputation.)

"In making the following proposal to the Government for remodelling "the Police in the District of Midnapore, it will be necessary for me, "in the first instance to mention the different Police arrangements at "present in force, point out the many causes of the great inefficiency "of the existing system, and then offer my remedy for the abuses.

"I will endeavour to do so as succinctly, and with as little prolixity "as possible.

"The Police are divided into three Classes :—

"1. The Paiks.
"2. The Village Police.
"3. The Police paid by Government.

"When or by whom the Paik system was established matters but little; "whatever its regularity or efficiency may have been formerly, it is quite "clear that on our obtaining possession of these Districts in 1760, the "system was inefficient in the extreme, the arrangements entirely de-"pending on the caprice and will of the Zemindars of the Jungle Me-"hals, who retained the Paiks much more in the light of private servants "than Policemen, the quantity of land or amount of pay they re-"ceived for their services differing in almost every state. In 1793, on "the Decennial Settlement taking place, the Paik arrangements then "in force were (I suppose from necessity) allowed to continue. Since

" then the only alteration that has taken place was in 1828, when the " Paiks were all registered by the Authorities, and were considered only " in the light of Policemen From that time to this, the system has " become every day more apparently an "abuse," and the longer it is " continued, the more will the Paiks consider themselves a privileged " class, and the more difficult will it become to alter the arrangements

" In the Midnapore District there are upwards of 4,300 Paiks, 'so-" called Policemen.' who live on rent-free lands, and are supposed to per-" form Police duties, for the performance of which the only remunera-" tion they receive is in the above-mentioned freehold (10 to 15 Beegahs " each) which, if leased, (and very few of the Paiks cultivate their own " lands) produces a sum utterly inadequate for their maintenance, so " that they are obliged to resort to other means of obtaining their live-" lihood, most of which are not of the most lawful description, and, " although the quantity of land which ought to be held by these men " is registered in the Public Offices, still, from being the Police of the " Districts in which they reside, from the change of Landlords, or the " neglect of the latter to enforce their rights, and other causes, they " have in many places succeeded in possessing themselves of much more " land than they have any claim to; and only a few years ago they " possessed lands on some estates of more than double the registered " quantity

" They are *the only* Police in the Districts in which they reside, but " they literally perform no Police duties. Being appointed by the Zemin-" dar they care little or nothing for the Magistrate. The powers of the " latter on the one hand, and the duties of the Paiks on the other, being " apparently so ill-defined, that as Policemen they are worse than useless, " and owing to this and other causes, they have been allowed to collect " in large numbers, so that in many parts of the District there are " villages,* entirely, or almost entirely inhabited by Paiks.

POLICEMEN PROTECTING POLICEMEN!!

" From having been permitted thus to collect together, and being the " only Police in those portions of the Zillah, they are enabled to oppose " all legitimate authority, they encroach upon the Zemindar's lands, " obstruct his servants in the performance of their duties, and oppress " the Ryots in innumerable ways. They commit crime with impunity, for " there is no one to inform against them, and in short, instead of being " the protectors, they are the oppressors of the people.

" Such being the case, it is necessary to enquire whether Government " can abolish the system without breaking faith with the Zemindars and " the Paiks.

" From the Paik system having been entirely altered in the Districts " which have at any time become "Khas," and from the original "Deeds " of Settlement" of certain Estates† which I have carefully examined, I " should imagine there could be little doubt on the subject. In the

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* Salburnee and many others.

† "Keddareeoond," "Kurrugpore," and others.

" Pottah of the Midnapore Estate, dated 11th September 1800, the " translation from Bengalee runs thus :—

" 'From the credit on account of Quit Rent. the Paikan and Sirdaran " 'land, I will maintain an Establishment of 1,498 nuffurs, and 221 " 'Rahwall, total 1719. Should the Magistrate deem it necessary to " '*reduce* the numerical strength of these Paiks, I will readily accede to " 'his terms. I have no power to *resume* the Paikan lands, and will act in " 'every way according to the orders I receive from the Magistrate.'

" The above shows, I should imagine, that the Zemindar has no " power over, or interest in the lands beyond the Quit Rent, the amount " of which is entered in the Pottah of every estate in which the system " exist, and also that the number of Paiks may be reduced to *any extent* " at the pleasure of Government, therefore the Paiks can have no *right* " to their lands beyond the time that they perform the duties of Police- " men, so that the Jagheers might be resumed, whenever Government " thought fit to do so Should the lands be resumed, could not Govern- " ment satisfy both parties by paying the Quit Rent to the Zemindars, and " by granting to the Paiks Pottahs for the Jagheers (agreeably to the " number of Beegahs entered in the official Register) now held by them, " subject to an easy assessment, and expending the proceeds in the main- " tenance of a Police Force! In giving my opinion thus freely, I trust " I shall not be deemed presumptuous, but even should my premises be " wrong in point of Law, as Government has abolished the system in " those estates which have become "Khas," I cannot conceive (even " supposing it is necessary for Government to be the Zemindar before they " can alter the present arrangements) that there would be any difficulty " in effecting the alteration, for all the Zemindars being entirely opposed " to the present system, they would be only too willing to agree to any " arrangement proposed by Government. Even should both the above " plans be deemed impracticable, would it not be better for Government " by resuming the lands of deceased Paiks, and of those men who may be " dismissed for misconduct, and settling the Quit Rent with the Zemin- " dar to allow the system gradually to become extinct, rather than allow " the present worse than useless arrangements to continue.

" The Village Police.

" The great inefficiency of the present system of Village Police " having now for many years been fully acknowledged, I would respectfully " beg to propose that Government should take the management of this " portion of the Police into their own hands, giving the following reasons " for their doing so.

" *1st.* The same anomaly exists with the Village Policemen as with " the Paik! He has two masters, the one who is supposed to pay him, " and the other who he is supposed to obey! At present he is the servant " of the Zemindar, being paid by him or by the villagers, and at " the same time he is under the orders of the Magistrate, the consequence " is, that although he is under the nominal control of the latter, he is

"virtually the servant of the Zemindar, and never reports the occur-
"ence of crime without first consulting the head man of the village upon
"the subject, through whose instrumentality much that is committed is
"concealed, or when reported, often in so garbled a state, that the ends
"of justice are defeated.

"*2ndly.* It is impossible to have an efficient Police, unless they are
"well paid, and so far from this being the case with the Village Police
"as at present constituted, they have not the means of living on the
"pittance they are supposed to receive as an equivalent for the perfor-
"mance of their Police duties There is moreover no regularity in the
"system; in some Villages the Chokeedar may be successful in obtaining
"a small sum in money, and the remainder of his supposed pay in food,
"in others he has received no sort of remuneration for months, and in
"some cases for years; and so greatly was this felt to be the case, that
"only last year it appeared to be the intention of Government to compel
"the people to pay their Police

"What is the consequence of the present system? Why, the Village
"Chokeedars are almost always implicated in the Thefts, Dacoities, and
"acts of violence that occur, and even when not directly implicated, a
"bribe is generally sufficient inducement for them to conceal any crime
"that may have been committed. Cases of honesty, zeal, and courage
"displayed by the Village Police being rare exceptions to the general
"rule, instead of, as they should be, "the rule itself."

"They are also (in my opinion,) much too local. Living in their own
"Villages, they become far too well acquainted with the affairs of their
"fellow Villagers. Information which, in a well regulated Police, would be
"of the very greatest advantage, under the present system leads to
"nothing but crime and oppression. A Chokeedar having no prospect of
"advancement, having but a bare pittance to live upon, and that even in
"many cases, being withheld from him, has no inducement to be either
"zealous or honest, but far otherwise, and having all the requisite in-
"formation, is generally nought but the spy and abettor of all the danger-
"ous characters in the neighbourhood, and thus having no fixed means of
"livelihood, they live upon the crime committed upon the very people
"they are supposed to protect!"

"In the above I certainly have not exaggerated, and as the people,
"through their pusillanimity, selfishness, and inertness never attempt to
"protect and assist one another, I would respectfully beg to propose
"that Government should raise a Village Police Force, and make
"the Zemindars responsible for the amount which they are bound
"(agreeably to the tenures of their estates) to expend in the maintenance
"of the Police, the remainder being obtained by an assessment on the
"Villages, fixed by a punchayet named by the Magistrate in each
"Village.

"*3rdly* With regard to the Police paid by Government, I have no
"particular remarks to make, with the exception that I think Govern-
"ment will allow that pay less than that obtained by a common cooly
"on the Railroad is hardly sufficient inducement for a man to make
"a trustworthy Policeman. I would therefore hope they would not

" object to raise their pay to the scale mentioned below, at the same " time as all Burkundazes receive Rupees 4 a month, the minimum pay " I would recommend for a Policeman ; the extra expense to Government " would be very trifling.

" The land in the possession of the Paiks agreeably to the Register is " nearly 57,000* Beegahs. That lightly assessed, say, " on an average of 12 annas a Beegah (which from all " I have been able to learn on the subject would be very light, as in " many places the Paikan Lands are the most valuable in the District) " would yield rather more than 40,000 Rupees. The Chokeedars together " with the Government Police amount to nearly 5000. So if the Ze- " mindars and Villagers were made answerable for the pay of Chokee- " dars at Rupees 4 a month, (and below that Government could hardly " expect to obtain trustworthy and active Policemen) there would be a " well paid Force of 5000 men for the District of Midnapore, which " might be officered by expending the 40,000 Rupees.

56,752-6-0.

" 15 Police Jemadars, 30 per mensem ... . Rs. 5,400
" 400 Naiks, 7 ditto ... ... „ 33,600

" These arrangements might easily be altered as the circumstances of " the case might require.

" It may be doubted whether the above Force would be sufficient as a " Protective Police, when more than double the number are nearly useless " under the present system. At the same time I cannot but think, that un- " less Government are willing to expend a very large sum, it would be " impossible to raise a sufficiently large Force to be purely, and at the same " time effectually, protective for most of the Districts in Bengal in " which the natives from their pusillanimity and selfishness refuse in any " way to protect themselves. But allowing the Force would be small to " scatter over an area of rather more than 5000 square miles, still properly " distributed, it would be many fold more useful, and a much greater " protection to the people than the present much larger one. I would " propose (especially until gang Dacoity, which is now so rife in most of " the Zillahs of Bengal is eradicated) that instead of (as at present) having " one useless Chokeedar in every village that numbers houses, two for " &c., to have the Police distributed about the District in small parties " of from four to ten men, and from every village from which a Chokeedar " is removed (where it may be deemed absolutely necessary) to have a res- " pectable man appointed on Rupees 2 a month to report all Police matters " to the Authorities as at present is the case (in certain Pergunnahs,) in " those villages in which there is not a Chokeedar. This would add but " very little to the expense, as from most of the small villages the Cho- " keedar could well be spared and immediately gang Dacoity was suppress- " ed these men would not be required. Wherever the guards were stationed " those villages would be safe, and by selecting from amongst the most " trust-worthy and intelligent men a body of Detectives, and having the " " well known" bad characters in the Zillah constantly watched, I think " in a short time great and constant crime would be checked, and the " people by gaining confidence in the Police might (gradually) be induced

" to assist in protecting each other. The District should be constantly " patrolled by the Native Officers and Naicks, and the Superintendent " should be expected to visit every portion of his District once in four " months, and repair to any spot within his circle immediately his " presence might be required.

" With regard to the enlistment of the Force I would strongly recom- " mend at the present time that Government should take it entirely into " their own hands Allowing the villagers to select their own Policemen, " would be (with but few exceptions) nothing more than permitting the " Zemindar to nominate his own servants, one of the greatest evils " of the present system. I would propose entertaining as many young " and active Bengalees as possible, though I think for some years a num- " ber of up-country men would be required to give a tone of smartness " and spirit to the Force. Should the whole body be composed of these " men, there would be great danger (the cowardice of the Bengallees " being proverbial) of their committing great oppression. Again, should " the Police be only entertained from the natives of Bengal, there would " be but little chance of any gang of Dacoits, or other large bodies of " men, being opposed with promptitude and efficiency.

" The name of every man entertained should be entered in a Register, " besides which a long roll and character roll should be carefully kept " in the office. The pay of the whole Force should be disbursed by the " Superintendent, as also all promotions and all punishments (to a certain " extent) should be made by him, subject to the confirmation of his " superior Officer. By these means should the men be treated with impar- " tiality both as to rewards and punishments, the Superintendent would " obtain a great command over them, and in a short time the Force would " (I think) work with considerable efficiency.

" With regard to " Gang Dacoity," the great crime of the Lower Pro- " vinces, I cannot but call the attention of Government to the general " system carried on by the Bengallees. While in the Midnapore Districts " I gained all the information I could regarding the gangs of Tumlook, " Hijelee, and Midnapore, but not being allowed to arrest Bengallee " Dacoits, I could not make use of my information.

" The real instigator of all the Dacoities that occur are the receivers " of the plunder, who, in many cases, are the Sirdars also. If only re- " ceivers, under our present Laws they live in perfect safety. While the " Dacoits (who are often led to join the gangs from absolute wants, or brib- " ed by the Receiver and Sirdar by the promise that their families shall be " supported in the event of their conviction,* and who after all but rarely " obtain more than a bare subsistence) are often arrested and convicted, " convictions against the Sirdars are rarely obtained, and against the " receivers (by far the most guilty parties) hardly ever. If the " evidence of approvers is taken against their accomplices, why should " it not be against the receivers ? It used to be taken in Thuggee cases, " though it is not received now. The only reason for such being the case

* This is very frequently the case, and almost as often the agreement is broken.

"is, I imagine, that the Higher Courts consider that the Thug gangs "being nearly destroyed, it is necessary to receive the approver evidence "with much more caution than certainly was the case a few years ago.

"Should the Laws applicable to Thuggee and hereditary Gang Da-"coity be carried out to their full extent, there can be no reason why, "that which has answered so admirably in the one case, should not equal-"ly be successful in the other, and when once the gangs were thoroughly "broken up, the Police parties might be again divided, and much more "scattered than I think would at present be advisable.

"I know full well the imperfections of the above scheme, but having "had two ends in view—the improvement of the Police, and that with-"out increasing the expenditure of Government, I have been obliged to "curtail my views, but should any portion of my scheme prove of any "use, I shall be amply repaid for the little trouble I have taken. Still "however imperfect my views may be, I cannot but think that with "more stringent Laws against "Receivers of stolen Property," also against "all those engaged either directly or indirectly in the assembly of "lat-"wals," or their bodies of men for the purpose of disturbing the peace, "and even an indifferent Police (the material for the formation of "a Bengal Police being so wretched it must be some time before it can "be really efficient), the Bengal calendar of crime would ere long be "very different to what it is at present."

C. T. H. KEIGHLY,

Assistant General Supdt., 44th N. I.

REPORT

ON THE

DISTRICT OF CUTTACK.

THIS District, commonly called the Central Division of Cuttack, contains 3,061 square miles. A Census made in 1847 showed the population to be 1,018,979, or 332 to a square mile. A Census of Cuttack conducted some years ago made the population 800,000. I am inclined to think the Census of 1847 incorrect. There is no reason to suppose that the Cuttack District is so much more densely populated than Pooree or Balasore. When Magistrate of Balasore, on the occurrence of a famine, I caused the people to be actually counted house by house. The Return gave 285 to a square mile. The Salt sales provide a supply for 781,040. I cannot believe the population to be more than 900,000, or about 290 to a square mile.

2. There are 147 Proprietors paying above Rupees 1,000 per annum Land Revenue. Of these 89 are resident, and 58 non-resident. One hundred and thirty are Hindoos, 15 Mahomedans, and 2 Christians; 75 of the 147 estates have been held by the family now in possession for more than 25 years.

3. None of the Proprietors are well educated. The Rajahs of Killahs Anl and Kunker were for some time in the Cuttack School, but they made little progress, and their estates are not managed better than those of their neighbours. There is not one European Zemindar. The two Christians mentioned above are East Indians, both females, and their Estates are managed by Natives in no way differently from other Estates.

4. The more valuable products, Sugar-cane, Cotton, and Tobacco, are produced in small quantities only; but the cultivation has doubled since the Settlement.*

	Before the Settlement.	Now.
* Sugar-cane	3,12 Acres.	709
Cotton	3,020 Acres.	6,474
Tobacco	1,723 Acres.	2,744

5. No Indigo is grown. It has been tried in two places, and entirely failed.

6. The staple of the District is Rice, the whole of which is now consumed in the District. Formerly, considerable quantities were exported, but the trade has entirely ceased, and here, as in Pooree, the

Arracan produce is said to have driven the Rice of Orissa out of the market.

7. There are no navigable Rivers connecting Cuttack with other Districts. The Sugar, Cotton and Tobacco are all consumed in the Districts. The only Exports worthy of mention are Hides and Horns, which are carried to Tumlook by land, and from thence by water to Calcutta.

LAND REVENUE.

8. Central Cuttack comprises 2,541 Mehals, paying Rs. 8,26,118-14-8 Land Revenue. Nineteen mehals, paying Rupees 1,412-9-8, belonging to individuals who, being dissatisfied with the Settlement recused, are held Khass, and four Mehals belonging to the Government, paying Rupees 2,599-13-1. are in like manner held Khass, and managed by the Canoongoes.

9. The assessment on the cultivated portion of the District averaged Rupee 1-13-11 per-acre. From the commencement of the Settlement up to 1840, the per centage allowed to the Zemindars, Mokuddums, Serberakars, and others was 30 and 35 per cent.; 30 where there were no middle men; 35 when the Villages were in the hands of under-holders, with a prescriptive right of possession at a fair rental. In 1840, 35 per cent. was fixed as the minimum with permission to increase it to 40, if necessary.

10 Though many petitions were presented to me complaining that the Revenue assessed was more than could be paid, I have no doubt that, as a whole, the Settlement is liberal, and the Revenue equally imposed. In some few cases the burden may be unsuitable. It would be unreasonable to expect that 2,541 Estates should be all assessed exactly in proportion to their capabilities without a single mistake. Calamities of season, neglect of the Embankment, and denial of inquiry and remission when called for, have thrown some into difficulties. Though sales have increased, I find no proof of over-assessment, but proof of the absence of considerate treatment, without which there must be distress in a province which suffers almost yearly from drought or inundation, and often, as this year, from both.

11. Between 1832-33, and 1841-42 the sales were as follows:—

Number of Estates sold.	Sudder Jumma.	Arrear due.	Sale proceeds.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
32	16,279	5,694	34,032
	Between 1842-43 and 1851-52.		
111	74,829	27,934	3,39,503

12. It will be observed that the sales during the last ten years are nearly four times the number of the preceding ten years; but from 1832-33 to 1841-42 the Estates realized little more than twice the sudder jumma; from 1842-43 to 1851-52, nearly 4½ times the sudder jumma, and the Estates sold in the current year sold at a rate exceeding six times the sudder jumma. The settlement doubled the value of Estates; but no remissions having been granted when calamity of season occurred, sales have increased.

13. In the five years from 1832-33 to 1836-37 there were sixteen sales. In the five years from 1837-38 to 1841-42 there were sixteen sales. In the five years from 1842-43 to 1846-47 there were twenty-seven sales. In the five years from 1847-48 to 1851-52 there were eighty-four sales. Mr. Mills left Cuttack on the 23rd January 1847. The sales have been three times as numerous as they were when he was Commissioner, five times as numerous as they were when he was Collector. As the price realized has been more than double, the inference is that had the system which existed when he was here not been departed from, there would not have been so many sales.

14. As mentioned above, in 1840 the malikanah allowance was increased from 30 and 35 per cent. to 35 and 40. It having been represented to me that a majority of the Estates sold were those settled previous to 1840, in which the smaller allowance had been granted, I inquired how far this representation was true. The result showed that of the Estates sold, only five were settled previous to 1840. The aggregate jumma was Rupees 19,164-1-7, the sale proceeds Rupees 51,955, or about 2½ times the jumma; considerably less, it will be remarked, than the price realized on the whole, including those settled subsequent to 1840.

15. As one of these was a large property, Pergunnah Saibeen, paying Rupees 17,066 out of the Rupees 19,164-1-7, I thought it worth while to pursue the enquiry a little further.

16. Pergunnah Saibeen originally belonged to the Rajah of Puttea assessed at Rupees 10,276, and was sold for arrears in 1807. It was bought by Mahomed Bux for Rupees 7,650. who sold it to Sahadeb Doss, a person of wealth in the District, for Rupees 11,001, and while in his possession the jumma was increased to Rupees 13,749. It was sold again for arrears due on a farm and bought by Nilmonee Haldar, in whose possession it was when settled under Regulation VII. of 1822. In 1836, subsequent to the settlement, Nilmonee Haldar sold it to Dwarkanath Thagore for Rupees 50,000. He allowed it to go to sale, and it was bought by agreement, by the present Proprietor, Ruggoonath Dass, for Rupees 42,000.

17. The malikanah allowance was 10 per cent. for expenses of collection, and 20 per cent. on the balance. Of this not above 15 can be regarded as clear income after accounting for trouble and risk. Fifteen per cent. on the jumma amounts to Rupees 3,300. The price paid by Dwarkanath Thagore was fifteen years' purchase, the price paid by Ruggoonath Dass was thirteen years' purchase.

18. Of course, the settlement would have been more acceptable, and it would have been morestable had the larger allowance, subsequently sanctioned, been granted; but I can find nothing to lead to a supposition

that the settlement was unsound or in any way mistaken. If the Embankments are kept up, as it always was intended they should be, and if on heavy and wide-spread calamity occurring, remissions commensurate with the injury sustained, which, though not promised, the terms of the settlement implied, are granted, the settlement of Saibeen, and the other settlements made previous to 1840 will stand, though I think it would have been better had the orders of May 1840 had retrospectve effect.

19. The owner of Saibeen, Ruggoonath Dass, is one of the most respectable and intelligent Zemindars in the Province; but he could not or would not understand, that being an auction purchaser, he could not possibly have any claim to increased malikanah allowance, inasmuch as had the allowance been 40 per cent. instead of 30, he would have had to pay Rupees 56,000 for the Estates instead of Rupees 42,000; he has all he bought, and, however little, can have no right to any thing more.

20. But he, as well as others, certainly have grounds for complaining that remissions have been withheld when they ought to have been allowed. In the ten years previous to the settlement on a demand of Rupees 84,52,505, Rupees 10,75,872 was remitted; in the ten years subsequent to the settlement on a demand of Rupees 82,31,430 the remissions have been only Rupees 7,694, though the unfavorable seasons have not been less frequent formerly and especially the drought of 1851 destroyed nearly the whole crop in many of the Northern Pergunnahs of the District.

21. We may, by a complete system of embankments, protect the country in some measure against inundation; but we cannot protect it against drought. It must not be expected that the jumma of the settlement will ever be collected for three years together without the necessity of remissions in some part or another. This year some Pergunnahs have suffered from drought, others have been swamped in seas of water.*

22. Mr Gilmore, the Judge, who has been ten years in the Province, writes as quoted in the margin, respecting remissions.

" The complaints of the Zemindars on the " subject of remissions are most loud and " unceasing, and in my humble opinion, not " without reason, for as you are well aware, " the whole length and breadth of this Pro- " vince is frequently liable to drought, and " those Estates which border on the numerous " rivers which intersect the Country, in addi- " tion to the above calamity, suffer from " inundation. I don't think the settlement " made any commensurate provision against " losses sustained by those calamities. It " is true that a deduction of Rs 80,000 was " made in the previous rent roll of the Cut- " tack District; but this was done rather, " I imagine, because the previous settlements " were based in the notoriously arbitrary and " grinding assessment of the Mahratta Go- " vernment, than to provide for losses occa- " sioned by calamities of season. Moreover, " the deduction was not general, but confined

23. Mr. Mills, in his note on the settlement, writes:—" No pro- " mise has been held out to the " Zemindars of obtaining suitable " remissions on the occurrence of " general calamities of seasons; " but it may be said to be " implied, and the settlements " cannot, in my opinion, stand " the test of all seasons, Cut- " tack being a Province which is " confessedly subject, as the " Court of Directors write, to " seasons of extreme uncertainty, " and liable to the most remark-

* Inquiries are to be made in several Pergunnahs, the bursting of the Embankments having caused great losses.

"to certain Estates; and the said sum of "Rupees 80,000 forms but a small portion of "the sums which in some years previous to "the settlement were remitted on account of "drought alone."

"able vicissitudes of drought "and inundation. Under the "just and liberal terms of the "present settlement the Zemindars may fairly be expected to bear ordinary losses." Mr. Mills strongly deprecated *suspensions* on the occurrence of calamity. He says:—"The Zemindars are not only improvident, but extravagant; they "have no means of subsistence besides the collections from their lands, "and to make the demand payable in coming years adds to their "distress. If the damage has been extensive, it would be ruinous to the "sufferers to refuse remissions commensurate with the injury sustained, "more especially as their losses were heavy during the past years, and "they obtained no relief."

24. Unfortunately, in the matter of remissions, nearly every thing depends on the character of the Collector. If he reports that the damage has not been such as to call for local investigations, it is not likely that the controlling Officers will direct investigations to be made. Some men will look at a very bad crop and regard it as a very good one;* others are disinclined to local investigations, from the trouble they occasion and the uncertain results. It is quite clear that of late years the inquiries called for have not been made, the people have in consequence greatly suffered, and the stability of the settlement has been placed in jeopardy. The Local Officers should all distinctly understand that, as declared by Mr. Mills, though the Zemindars may fairly be expected to bear ordinary losses when damage has been extensive, it is intended that remissions should be granted commensurate with the injury sustained.

25. That the Zemindars have great reason to complain of the neglect of the Embankments, I have shown under the heading of "Public Works." In the three Districts, there were in 1851-52 304 breaches; in 1852-53 704; this year 1,100; and the Executive Engineer writes:—"Nothing could justify the non-repair of the Embankments. In two "seasons an absurd idea that the Embankments were in a great measure "useless induced the Executive Engineer to lessen the annual estimate "by the very large amount of Rupees 30,470, and the consequence has "been that for every Rupee supposed to be saved, Government will have "to expend 20."

26. As immediately connected with Land Revenue, I must not allow the decreased outlay in the Salt Department to pass without observation in this place. In a District without any trade, which may now be said to be the condition of Cuttack, it was to be expected that any decrease in outlay—anything that caused more Rupees to be exported to Calcutta—would affect those who had Rupees to pay in the Province, and accordingly we find that with the decreasing manufacture, the difficulties of the land-holders have increased.

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* I once took a Collector into the field with me to examine a crop which he pronounced good, though not 20 per cent. of an average crop. There were the ears, but they were empty.

27 The following Table shows the quantity of Salt manufactured, the Treasure exported, and the sales for arrears of Revenue during the last twelve years :—

Salt manufactured in the six years from 1840-41 to 45-46. Mds. 18,49,486.	Treasure exported to Calcutta from 1841 to 1846. Rs. 28,36,666.	Sales for Arrears of Revenue from 1840-41 to 1845-46 23
In six years from 1846-47 to 1851-52. Mds. 11,56,638.	In six years from 1847 to 1852. Rs. 45,33,517.	In six years from 1846-47 to 1851-52. 92.

28. Representations having been made to me that, whenever Estates had come under the management of the Government Officers, being attached by the Courts, or being the property of minors, the collections had fallen short of the jumma assessed at the settlement, I called for a Return showing the result of the management in such Mehals. The result is confirmatory of the representations of the petitioners. Fifty mehals have been held by the Court of Wards for different periods since 1843. Collections equal to the jumma of the settlement have been made in four only; in the remaining forty-six they have fallen short; only eight Estates have come under attachment since 1843. In four the collections have equalled the jumma of the settlement; in four they have fallen short.

29. This must, I think, be admitted as proof, that unless full consideration be shown, whenever any calamity of season shall occur, the settlement will not stand. It must not be left to the discretion of the Collectors whether inquiry shall be made or not; such investigations are very irksome, and the people are so importunate, and their representations are for the most part so exaggerated, District Officers are oftentimes much disinclined to listen. The Commissioner must insist on inquiries with a view to suitable remission whenever any considerable loss of crop shall be occasioned, either by inundation or drought. As before stated, it was always intended that such remissions should be allowed. There was no promise; but Mr Mills says that by the terms of the settlement allowances for calamity of seasons were implied, and it is quite clear that, implied or not, they cannot be withheld.

30. There are nineteen Mehals which have been held Khas since the settlement, in consequence of the recusancy of the Proprietors. The jumma at which they declined to engage has never been realized; in each case there is a deficiency. Under these circumstances the Collectors should be directed to tender the Mehals to the Proprietors with the usual allowance of malikanah in the average collections of the last ten years. It may perhaps be supposed that in some instances the owners wilfully left the lands uncultivated, and have since perversely exercised

their influence to hinder cultivation, but unless there *be proof positive of the exercise of such interference*, I think the experience of ten years should be admitted as proof that the assessment of the settlement was inappropriate, and that the proprietor prudently declined to accept the terms offered.

31. A statement which I called for from the Office of the Judge shows that from 1832 to the present time, only 257 cases have been instituted in the Courts for the reversal of orders connected with the settlement. In 80 cases the orders of the Officers of the Revenue Department were set aside, in 165, the orders were confirmed, or the cases struck off; twelve cases are pending. When it is recollected that the interests of two millions of people were adjusted and recorded at that settlement, that the cases were numbered by tens of thousands, this must, I think, be pronounced a most successful reesult. I regard it not only as creditable to the Officers employed, but most creditable to the character of the people.

32. One of the complaints of the Zemindars was the expense and annoyance to which they are subjected in consequence of the call for their Putwarree papers. On inquiry I found that these papers are furnished with much irregularity, and instead of affording any protection to the Ryot, may be made use of to effect his ruin.

33. It was ruled by the Government, on a reference from the Commissioner, that the only penalty to be inflicted on the Zemindars for not filing their papers, the penalty prescribed in Sections 14 and 15, Regulation IX. of 1833. The consequence has been that, for the most part, papers are not filed unless the Zemindar desires to institute a suit for arrears, when the papers connected with the village in which the lands held by the party against whom proceedings are contemplated may be situated, are tendered and accepted. Thus, parties intending to prosecute, take care that the papers shall contain that by which their plaint may be proved.

Since the completion of the settlement in Cuttack, papers have been filed connected with 1,373 Mehals. There have been no papers filed belonging to 1,218 Mehals.

34. In Pooree the papers have been regularly filed for 21 Mehals. There have been no papers for 34 Mehals; for 210 Mehals papers have been filed, but not regularly every year. I have always entertained doubts whether these papers were of any real use, even if filed with regularity; irregularly filed in this manner I have no doubt that they are much worse than useless. Either measures should be taken for compelling the presentation of complete papers at the beginning of each year, or the demand should be abandoned.

35. This Province has been settled for thirty years, the rights and interests of all recorded, and pottahs given to all who had any right to ask for them. Under the Law no Zemindar can recover rent from a Ryot beyond that due according to his pottah, unless he can show that under an engagement entered into by the Ryot subsequent to the settlement, more is demandable. From those to whom pottahs were not given, being merely paiee-ryots, or tenants-at-will, the Zemindar

cannot recover rent at higher rates than those assumed at the settlement, unless he can show the existence of peculiar circumstances under which a higher demand is proper. I cannot see what further protection is afforded by the papers, with whatever regularity they may be filed.

36. Some may say when at the expiration of the existing settlement a re-settlement shall be necessary, these papers will be useful, I reply they will not be trusted; they are not trusted now. No one pretends to say they are correct; they will be less trusted then. Whatever the contests may be, they will not be accepted as the foundation of a re-settlement. Should they show less cultivation than the papers of the settlement, no Settlement Officer will be satisfied without testing them by a measurement. Should they show more cultivation, still no one will believe that they show all. We have now a case in point in Khoordah, of which I have proposed a re-settlement. No one has thought of proposing to renew the settlement, taking the papers as the guide for the assessment to be imposed.

37. When the existing settlement shall expire, we shall have the papers, which are in excellent order, every paper in its place, and we shall have the Survey Maps, all the volumes of which look as fresh as they did when first bound up (I did not observe a spot of damp in one of them.) With their assistance all increased cultivation will easily be traced, and whether the rates of the settlement should be maintained, or increased rates imposed, will depend not upon any thing that may be found in their Putwarree papers, but upon the state generally of markets and prices throughout the Country.

38. I recommend that the demand for Putwarree papers should cease; that of the 106 Canoongoes in the Province 63 should be discharged, and the remaining 43 retained for the present as sale Ameens under Regulation I. of 1839, and for employment in the conduct of local investigations, the necessity for which is constantly occurring in Cuttack.* All the papers which have accumulated since the settlement, now encumbering the record-rooms to no purpose whatever, I would burn.

39 With reference to the extent of country East of Cuttack, it appears desirable to station an Officer at Kundreparra with the powers of a Deputy Collector and Deputy Magistrate. The services of Babu Nursing Churn Dass, Abkarree Superintendent, will be available in the Abkarree Department, being again placed under the Collector, and I propose that the Thannahs of Asseressur, Pattamoondee, and Teerun should be placed under him.

40. Kundreparra is a Moonsiff's station. I have proposed that an English School should be established there, and it is in every respect suited to become the head quarters of a sub-division. A Kutcherree and a small Jail in which to confine those under trial and those sentenced to very short periods of imprisonment, must be erected.

41. The Commissioner advocates the establishment of a sub-division. The Judge and the Magistrate do not consider it very necessary.

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* The Commission received on sales under Reg. I of 1839 was 189, giving to each person about 4 Rs. for the year.

Pooree—25 till the revision of the Koordah Settlement shall have been completed.

Cuttack—12. Balasore—6.

It certainly will be a great convenience to all parties engaged in trivial cases who reside on the coast Pergunnahs, for Murrichpore on the coast is upwards of 40, False Point is upwards of 50, and Pattamoondee is more than 60 miles from Cuttack. Besides being useful in the Revenue and Police Departments, he might also be of much service in the Salt Department by visiting the Chokees in that neighbourhood.

ABKARREE.

42. The new system of Abkarree was introduced in 1847. The result has been as follows :—

	Collections.			Disbursement.			Profit.		
From 1841 to 1846-47 under Collector ...	1,50,982	8	11	19,945	5	2¼	1,31,037	3	8
From 1847-48 to 1852-53 under new system ...	3,34,067	12	5¼	81,005	0	10	1,53,062	11	7
Increase	83,085	3	6¼	61,059	11	7¾	22,025	7	10

43. For the sake of a net increase of Rupees 22,025, Rupees 83,085-3-6 has been levied on the people. In any other Department this would be regarded as a lamentable failure; but so large a portion of the articles taxed in the Abkarree Department are injurious to health, it appears to be considered advantageous to collect a tax at any cost.

44. The Department is now to be re-transferred to the Collector's with decreased establishment.

45. Though there has been an increase, and Rupees 6,592-13-0 is levied on Ganja, as is the case in Pooree, the taxed Ganja is not above a tithe of the drug consumed. It is grown in nearly all the Tributary Mehals near Cuttack, and, as I stated in my Report, in Pooree. The fresh flowers of the plant grown in these localities are much preferred to the Ganja brought from Rajeshaye and Bogra. It is not as generally used as in Pooree; but the consumption must be very great, and no attempt has been made by the Officers of the Department to bring it under taxation.

46. The licensed Godown-keepers should bring it under passes from the Abkarree Superintendent, from the Districts in which it is produced, and, as the best is grown in Ungool, now managed by a Tuhseldar under the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals, the Tuhseldar might be directed to co-operate, by assisting the Godown-keeper in procuring the drug, and preventing its purchase by any other parties.

He might also endeavour to bring the cultivation under surveillance, and, while he offered no opposition to the culture of Ganja, provide for the sale of the produce to the licensed purchaser. The Tributary Chiefs should be instructed to use their endeavours to prevent Ganja being brought into the plains, except by persons licensed, and to bring the cultivation in their respective Districts under observance, and to confine it to particular localities, in order that its disposal may be regulated. These measures, assisted by activity on the part of the Abkarree establishment, and a few successful attachments, might, I think, result in a considerable increase in this most legitimate source of Revenue. The manner in which the unlimited consumption of this article has been allowed to continue, though known to all the Officers of the Department, and indeed, to every one, for there are very few houses in which it is not used, is not creditable to Baboo Nursing Churn Dass and his subordinates. Doubtless there are many difficulties in the matter, and, may be, no endeavours to tax the Ganja of the Gurjats will be successful; but the obvious difficulties should not have prevented a systematic plan for its taxation from being attempted long ago.

Miscellaneous Revenue.

47 The sale of Stamps for four years ending with 1852 amounted to Rupees 1,23,903, giving an average of Rupees 30 975-0-12

Civil Justice.

48 The Civil Courts in the Province, including Balasore and Pooree, are—

The Judge.
The Principal Sudder Ameens.
The Sudder Ameen and Moonsiffs at Balasore.
Four Moonsiffs stationed at Cuttack, Pooree, Kundreparra, Dhamnugger.

Last year, the number of cases disposed of was as follows :—

	Decided on Trial.	*Disposed of.*
Judge ...	48	60
Principal Sudder Ameen	160	180
Sudder Ameen	30	36
Moonsiffs,	1,492	2,132

49. The cases instituted last year were as follows .—

Before Judge ...	146
" Principal Sudder Ameen	100
" Sudder Ameen ...	31
" Moonsiffs	2,122

50. The Judge complains that owing to the dilatoriness of the suitors, it is often times impossible to dispose of cases with the promptness necessary to satisfy the Sudder Court, and represents that the Native Judges go on allowing the parties further time to produce other evidence through fear of their decisions being reversed in Appeal on the ground of their not having allowed time for the filing of other proofs.

51. It appears to me the Judge has the remedy in his own hands. When a case, after the completion of the pleadings, is brought to a hearing, if the parties are not ready to file their exhibits and name their witnesses, a fine may be imposed,* and repeated, should the first fine not have the effect of making the parties proceed with their case. He has but to *insist* on the Law being strictly carried out. The Circular Order of the Sudder Court, dated the 28th June 1850, appears to have created doubts, whether on a case, after the expiration of the eight days' notice, being first brought to a hearing, a fine can be imposed, if the parties are not ready; some are of opinion that a fine cannot be inflicted till a case shall be brought forward a second time. It might be well if these doubts were cleared up by a supplementary order.

52. I found that endeavours have now been made by the Judge to introduce in his own Courts and the Court of the Principal Sudder Ameen, the Rules prescribed by the Circular Order of the Sudder Court, dated the 20th November 1851, respecting the preparation of issues to be tried; but no attempt has been made to extend the practice to the Moonsiffs' Courts. The Moonsiff of Cuttack is quite conversant with the purport of the orders, and ready to carry them into effect if so instructed. There may be difficulty in carrying out such Rules by means of mere written orders; but if each Moonsiff and the two leading Vakeels of his Office were summoned to the Sudder Station for two days, the Judge, or the Principal Sudder Ameen, by showing them a few cases in which approved issues had been prepared and tried, and by explaining any parts of the orders not thoroughly comprehended, might, with very little trouble, effect the general introduction of this most useful reform.

53. The Vakeels plead in Hindoostanee, there is no one among them of any great ability, and the Judge derives but little assistance from them in the performance of his duties.

54. The work of the Judge's Office is very heavy. Besides the business of the Civil Court, in which, though the cases are not numerous, they are often of an exceedingly tedious nature, he has the Sessions cases of three Districts containing nineteen Thannahs and two millions of people, and the Fouzdarree Appeals, from eleven Officers exercising Criminal jurisdiction. It would afford some relief to the Judge if all Moonsiffs' Appeals were sent to the Principal Sudder Ameen, the Judge calling for such cases only as for any special reason he might desire to dispose of himself.

55. On examining the books of the Principal Sudder Ameen's Office, I found that the system which existed in the Office of the Moonsiff of Pooree existed to a still greater extent in his.

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* Clause 3, Section 12, Regulation XXVI. 1814.

There was no case decided—

Between the 1st and 20th January.
Between the 1st and 20th February.
Between the 1st and 13th March
Between the 1st and 12th and 13th and 29th April.
Between the 1st and 12th May.
Between the 1st and 9th June.
Between the 1st and 4th July.
Between the 1st and 7th August.
Between the 1st and 11th September.

56. The Principal Sudder Ameen represented that the business of copying Decrees and preparing the Monthly Returns was so heavy, it was useless to attempt to dispose of cases during the first days of the month, for there no one at leisure to prepare the Record, all being employed in bringing up the work of the past month ; that the Forms furnished are very voluminous, and that copies of Decrees must be ready in seven days, or explanation furnished of the delay.

57. He further represented that in order to effect what was done, he was necessitated to employ Native Officers at salaries quite disproportionate to the labor and responsibility of the offices they filled, especially that the Mohurrir, who had charge of accounts embracing Receipts and Disbursements to the amount of upwards of Rupees 60,000 per annum, received Rupees 7. The allowances of Rupees 150 per mensem is disposed of as follows :—

Sherishtadar	20	
Peishkar	10	
Mohurrir	10	
Ditto	10	
Ditto	8	
Mohafiz	8	
		66
Nazir	8	
Mohurrir	7	
Naib Mohafiz	6	
Mohurrir	6	
Ditto ...	6	
Ditto	6	
Ditto	5	
		44
Ditto	4	
Ditto	4	
Ditto	4	
Ditto	4	
Ditto	4	
Duftery	6	
Paper, &c.	10	
		36
		146

58. Many of these persons receive no more than is paid to a common *piada* for carrying messages. Some may accept the situation in order to learn, some may consent to work on such a pittance, having no alternative except manual labor; but the inference is irresistible, that trifling fees and donations make the offices worth having.

At Pooree, the Rs. 40 allowed the Moonsiff was distributed as follows:—

Sherishtadar	7	0	0
Naib Ditto	5	0	0
Mohafiz	4	0	0
Decree Nuvees	4	0	0
4 Mohurrirs at Rs. 3	12	0	0
1 Mohurrir	2	0	0
Stationery	6	0	0
	40	0	0

The Moonsiff entertains a Duftery at his own cost. At Cuttack it is distributed as follows:—

Sherishtadar	7	0	0
Naib Ditto	5	0	0
Mohafiz	5	0	0
Head Decree Nuvees	3	0	0
Naib Ditto	2	8	0
Mohurrir	3	0	0
4 Mohurrirs at Rs. 2	8	0	0
Duftery	2	12	0
	36	4	0
Stationery	3	8	0
Mater	0	4	0
	40	0	0

59. Baboo Tarucknath Bidyasaugur is highly spoken of by the Judge and the Sudder Court. He certainly is popular with the people of Cuttack. He appears a very intelligent person, and thoroughly acquainted with the laws and the orders of the Courts. He is employed for some days at the beginning of each month in conducting sales in execution of decrees, and other miscellaneous duties, and assures me he is most desirous to carry out the orders contained in the Court's Circular of the 4th April 1853, in which bringing forward several cases together towards the end of the month was forbidden. He represents that if the existing system is to be abandoned, and he is to dispose of cases throughout the month, as has been usual in the last half of the month only, his establishment must at least be doubled.

60. I have no doubt that a considerable increase of establishment would enable many Principal Sudder Ameens to decide nearly double the number of suits. But it appears to me that some relief may be afforded. The voluminous Monthly Statements might be advantageously revised, and reduced in number and bulk. In the monthly statement of cases disposed of, an abstract of each case is inserted. The preparation of an abstract is by no means a very easy matter; copying the abstract must occupy much time; and the abstracts cannot possibly be of any use; no one ever thinks of reading them. I earnestly recommend that the Monthly Returns submitted by the Judges to the Sudder Court, and by the Subordinate Courts to the Judges, should be revised with a view to dispensing with all forms not absolutely necessary to efficient superintendence, and that the establishments of all Moonsiffs be forthwith increased to Rupees 70, the establishment of Sudder Ameens to Rupees 120, and the establishments of Principal Sudder Ameens to Rupees 200, pending further inquiry. The Judge represents that a great deal of unnecessary labor is occasioned by the Subordinate Courts having to prepare copies of Decrees to be delivered to parties who frequently do not attend to receive them. A Moonsiff has to prepare four copies of each

Decree, one to be filed with the record, one for the Plaintiff, one for the Defendant, and one to be entered in a book called the Moonsiff's Decree Book; and should there be more than one Defendant, and separate answers filed by each, there must be as many copies as there are separate answers. I cannot think all this labor necessary. In the higher Courts, copies are not prepared till called for. The same system might advantageously be extended to the Subordinate Courts.

61. The Judge's Return to a Statement I called for, shows that nearly all Moonsiffs* habitually devote one quarter of their time to mere mechanical labor, or sit by while the mechanical labor is performed by their subordinates The increase I have proposed in their Establishments is Rupees 20 per mensem. One-quarter of the Moonsiff's time is worth Rupees 25. If the increase enables the Moonsiff to work this one-quarter of his time instead of sitting idle, the State will in the case of each Moonsiff, gain Rupees 5 per mensem, and in the case of Principal Sudder Ameens, should the increase enable them to devote their whole time to the trial of cases, the Government will gain the difference between one-third of their salary and Rupees 70. The enquiry with a view to the reduction of the bulk of the Monthly Returns might also embrace the subject of the number of Omlah, which, after the reduction in the Monthly Returns, would enable all grades of Judicial Officers to devote their whole time to such work as is worth the rate of pay they receive, instead of employing themselves in the superintendence of labor which might be exactly as well done at one-tenth of the expense. The time of a Principal Sudder Ameen is wasted whenever he is employed in revising Monthly Statements and comparing copies.

62. I found the records in good order. At present cases connected with the execution of decrees are not kept with the original cases, which is a faulty arrangement. The Judge will remedy it; but in order to provide a translator, he has been deprived of his record-keeper. He should be restored.

63. I have mentioned in another place how very few suits were instituted in the Civil Courts to set aside the decisions of the Revenue Officers connected with the settlement An examination of the detailed statements of original suits for the last three years shows how thoroughly, in the broadest meaning of the term, the Cuttack settlement really was a settlement. I find these entries:—

Suits for land not before included, such as boundary disputes, &c, before all the Courts:—

In 1850	...	...	...	78
In 1851	...	...	...	165
In 1852	...	...	...	77

64. This in a Province containing two millions of people nearly all occupying land. Those who were engaged in the settlement can desire no further proof that one great object of the settlement was most completely obtained.

* The Moonsiff of Dhamanuggur alone disposed of cases regularly from the beginning to the end of the month.

65. In consequence of the suspension of Mullick Gunneeboollah, the Sudder Aineen and Moonsiff at Balasore the Court at that Station has been closed since July last, and a considerable number of cases has accumulated. If it is likely that Gunneeboollah's case will not be soon disposed of, an acting Sudder Aineen and Moonsiff should be appointed.

66. The Moonsiff of Jahajpoor represented to me that if allowed the sum of Rupees 300 he could build a very good Kutcherry of stone, as there is abundance of stone belonging to the State lying about near Jahajpoor of which he could make use. The only expense would be the labor and cement, and I recommend the proposal to favorable consideration.

Criminal Justice.

67. The Courts of Criminal Justice in the District of Central Cuttack are—

The Sessions Court.
The Court of the Magistrate.
Ditto ditto Joint Magistrate.
Ditto ditto Assistant Magistrate.
Ditto ditto Deputy Magistrate.
Ditto ditto Law Officer.
Ditto ditto Executive Officer in cases connected with Embankments.

68. The Deputy Magistrate is Mr. Mackenzie, the Assistant to the Salt Agent, who is chiefly employed in trying cases in controvertion of the Salt Laws, and in superintending the manufacture.

69. An examination of these Returns for three years shows that during that period 13,278 witnesses were examined, of which 8,826 were detained one day only, and no more than 146 were detained above six days.

70. There is a good deal of business in the Courts, though cases of a heinous nature are not frequent. The average number of crimes of all sorts during three years was 1,912⅔, of which 568 were merely petty assaults.

71. The Law Officer is so constantly employed in the Sessions Court, that he can seldom assist in trying petty criminal cases, and more than half of the time of the Assistant, Mr. Lane, is occupied in the Office of the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals; but, on the whole, the Courts subordinate to the Sessions Court are sufficient, and cases are disposed of without any injurious delay. The manner in which the Magistrate distributes the duties between himself and his Subordinates appears judicious.

72. The work in the Office of the Sessions Judge is exceedingly heavy, as is shown in the underwritten statement.

Memorandum of the number of Sessions Cases and Appeals instituted in the Court of the Judge of Zillah Cuttack from 1850 to October 1853.

YEARS.	Number of Session Cases instituted.	Number of Appeal Cases instituted.	No. of days occupied by the Judge in Criminal duties
1850	34	380	142
1851	41	310	162
1852	36	270	166
From 1st January to October 1853.	31	265	102
Total	142	1225	

73. The Sessions Judge has to dispose of the Appeals from no less than eleven* Officers, besides heavy Sessions duties, and the conduct of the business of the Civil Court. For the last four years, the average has been 35 Sessions cases, and 306 Criminal Appeals.

74. If possible, I think the Judge should be relieved of the Balasore Sessions and the Criminal Appeals from Balasore and Pooree. I will return to this subject when I come to speak of the Tributary Mehals and the duties of the Commissioner.

75. The Government Pleader represented to me that under recent orders he has to attend so continually in the Sessions Court that he is losing his practice in the Civil Courts. In some few cases it may be necessary for an Officer on the part of the Government to be in attendance; but the presence of the Vakeel, except when the Government prosecutes, appears to me a useless form, and it must be attended with expense, for the best men will not give up lucrative practice for the pittance of Rupees 20 per mensem, which is the usual pay of the Government

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Magistrate of Balasore
Joint Magistrate of Ditto.
Deputy Magistrate of Bhudruck
Magistrate of Cuttack
Joint Magistrate of Ditto.
Deputy Magistrate of Cuttack.
Law Officer.
Magistrate of Pooree.
Assistant Ditto with special powers.
Deputy Magistrate of Khoordah
Executive Officer.

Pleaders. A letter addressed to me by the Judge on this subject is appended.*

76 With reference to the prevalence of the crime of perjury in the Province, the Judge proposes that some stringent Rules should be issued respecting the sale and purchase of Stamps. He recommends that "No document engrossed on Stamp Paper purchased otherwise "than direct from a Government Stamp Vendor should be held to be "valid in any Court of Justice," and, *2nd*, that "No document "should be held to be valid unless executed and dated within fifteen "days, or at furthest one month from the date on which the "stamp was sold."

77. Mr. Gilmore represents that the sale of old Stamps for the purpose of preparing deeds is a regular trade; but I do not find confirmation of these representations in the statements received from the Magistrate. In three years, from the beginning of 1850 to the end of 1852, but one case of forgery appears in the Criminal Returns. If the production of forged deeds is as common an occurrence as Mr. Gilmore supposes it to be, he should endeavour to make an example by causing a forger to be prosecuted.

POLICE.

78. The District is divided into nine Thannahs, each Thannah containing on an average 340 square miles.

79. There has not been a case of dacoity during the last three years. The heinous crimes have been as follows:—

Wilful murder	9
Murder of children	3
Homicide	8
Wounding with intent to murder	1
Highway robbery	2
Burglary with murder	1
Affrays	16
Incendiarism	25

80. This is not a long list of crime for three years among a million of people. The average number of persons apprehended was 1,239, the convictions 681.

81. The people of Cuttack are peaceable, and though the Police Force is weak, it appears sufficient.

82. I have perused the correspondence forwarded with the Commissioner's letter of the 10th September, recommending that a Patrol should be established on the Juggernath road from Rajghat on the Sabonrekha to Pooree. The statements of crime do not show the necessity of this increase to the Police Force; but that must not be regarded as conclusive evidence that people travel in safety, for a pilgrim will never complain.

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* Will be forwarded with the Report on Midnapore.

In coming down they think only of Pooree. In returning they think only of their homes. They will not leave their party, and their party will not wait. They always have some money, often times considerable sums. I strongly recommend that a Patrol should be established; but I do not approve of single Burkundauzes. They will not move after night-fall, and they will not sleep alone at the Chowkee. They should, I think, be placed two together. I doubt the propriety of placing Paiks with the Burkundauzes; they are not trustworthy, and the Burkundauzes would leave the Patrol to them while they idled.

83. But little will be effected by merely appointing Burkundauzes to patrol. A well digested system of check and control should be introduced suited to the duties to be performed which do not altogether resemble the duties on the Great Trunk Road. The Magistrates have all had considerable experience. I recommend that the Rules be prepared by Mr. Drummond, then sent for the remarks of the other two Magistrates, to be returned by them to Mr. Drummond, and forwarded by him to the Commissioner, with his notes on the remarks of the other two Officers. By this means a thoroughly practical code of Rules will be obtained.

84. Of the Darogahs, two are in the second grade, seven in the third grade; none were educated at any Government School. The Magistrate represents that in Bengal the increase in the pay has induced persons of respectability to enter the Service; but that in Cuttack, on vacancies occurring, it is difficult to find persons of even apparent respectability to fill them. He reports that petty extortion is less common than it used to be; but that, generally speaking, Darogahs are still dishonest. Mr. Harrison has ascertained that the travelling expenses of a Darogah are seldom less than Rupees 25 per mensem. He would pay no Darogah less than Rupees 75, and raise the pay of the Mohurrirs and Jemadars, who often have to perform Darogahs' duties. The appointment is little sought after, and Mr. Harrison considers the Ooriya Darogahs more honest than Officers of the same grade in Bengal.

85. In Orissa there is less inclination to give, and I entirely agree with the Magistrate that there is generally less corruption among the Police than there is in the Bengal District.

86. The Thannah in the Town of Cuttack is very confined. There are two rooms only,—one a room for the confinement of persons apprehended, the other the room in which the papers are kept; a guard-room should be added for the Burkundauzes.

Cuttack Jail.

87. The only objection to this Jail is that the ward for women is in the middle of it, with wards for men on both sides. The Civil Jail is a room 70 feet long and 34 wide, capable of containing nearly a hundred people. I have ascertained that for some years past the average number of civil prisoners has been eight only. At the expense of a few hundred Rupees, for one wall and a separate cook-room, half this building can be divided off, and made an excellent prison for female convicts. A plan

is annexed* showing the alteration proposed. There will be a separate entrance to the new prison. There already is a separate wall, and it will be in every respect suitable.

88. The dietary system prescribed has been completely carried out. Tobacco is never allowed, and Opium only when declared to be necessary by the Medical Officer. The expense of a laboring convict is Rupees 1-1-1½ per mensem; of a non-laboring convict, Rupees 0-15-11.

89 The work-shop of the women is in the same range with the shops in which the prisoners are employed. I think they should be employed inside the Jail.

90. The Surgeon reports the Jail and Jail Hospital to be well ventilated and healthful, which is evidenced by the exemption of the prisoners from cholera and other epidemics, and by the small amount of sickness generally.

91. The doors of the Jail and some of the coverings of the walls are much out of order, and apparently quite worn out. I was told that estimates for renewing the doors had been submitted.

PUBLIC WORKS EMBANKMENTS.

92. The public buildings are in good condition. It is inconvenient the Public Offices being so scattered. The Collector's Office is a mile from the Judge's, and two miles from the Commissioner's; but no remedy is apparent without incurring a very heavy expense.

93. The state of the Embankments is told in a few words, or rather by a few figures:—

Years.	*No. of breaches.*	*Estimate for repairs.*		
		Rs.	As.	P.
1849-50	5	... 2,444	9	10½
1850-51 ...	14	.. 2,240	7	0
1851-52	117	... 10.250	13	4½
1852 53	321	... 11,408	13	10
1853-54	618	Estimates not yet prepared.		

94. Some of the works in this Division might perhaps be dispensed with; but others are of great importance. Up to 1849-50, they appear to have been sufficiently attended to. The present Executive Engineer ascribes all the losses that have been sustained to the short-sighted policy pursued in 1849-50 and 1850 51. Now, a very large outlay will be necessary to restore the efficiency of the Embankments; and, as in Pooree, it is absolutely necessary that the Scientific Officer should himself inspect every Embankment, and determine what should be restored, and the section necessary to ensure their stability. The Collector or his Assistant should accompany the Executive Officer

95. Lieutenant Short represents that if relieved of the Northern Division, he could superintend with efficiency the Central and Southern Division; but the immediate Survey of all the Embankments is necessary, and it is physically impossible that one Officer should, in the

* Will be submitted hereafter; the Executive Officer has not yet forwarded it.

ensuing or rather the passing season, survey all himself The Staff pay of two additional Officers for two years will be Rupees 12,000. To place the Pooree Embankments in a state of real efficiency will cost certainly from two to three lacs of Rupees. The money will all be thrown away if the works are not scientifically constructed It is the same in the Central Division. The repairs of the Revetment and the restoration of the Embankments cannot be performed by persons who have not been educated as Engineers The Revetment, especially, requires the skill of a person who has carefully studied the art of Building as well as of Civil Engineering. I repeat the recommendation submitted in my Pooree Report, that for two years there should be a separate Officer for each District.

96. Lieutenant W. Short, the Officiating Executive Engineer, appears to be active and efficient; but he cannot superintend the restoration of works extending from the Sabenreekha to Pooree When all considered necessary shall have been reconstructed on improved sections and in proper positions, no Science will be necessary to maintain them in repair. Serjeants or Darogahs may conduct common repairs when Science shall have ruled where the works are to be, and the dimensions necessary.

Cuttack Road.

97. I find the road in exactly the same state it was when I first knew it twenty-five years ago. It has not improved in any respect. It is the same long heap of mud and clay, always next to impassable for any wheeled vehicles, except the high wheeled Cuttack hackeries, and for many months of the year impassable even for them. In some parts, where the soil is sandy, foot passengers do not suffer much inconvenience at any time of the year; but across the many low plains where the soil is clayey, the difficulty of making any progress in wet weather can hardly be exaggerated. I have myself been nine hours going ten miles!

98. From the first week in June till the last week in October, the road is for the most part seven or eight inches deep in very stiff mud. The sun, on the rains ceasing, dries the clay in the shape in which the first clear morning found it For some time it is scarcely less difficult to get over the dry clay than through the wet clay. Gradually the sharp points are worn down and a foot-path is formed which continues to get wider and better during the cold months, say from November till February or March, then come the annual repairs, which means heaping up great clods of baked clay, which for a time make travelling as painful as ever; they are by degrees pounded and smoothed, and as much as is not blown away in dust in the months of April and May becomes mud in June.

99 Till those parts where the soil is clayey shall be metalled, the road must be next to impassable in the rains; but a little good management would remedy many of the inconveniences now experienced In the first place new earth should not be thrown on the road above once in four years, and the section should then be *fully restored.* This will at once reduce the inconvenience suffered from the new clods 75 per cent.

100. On the 1st November as many coolies as may be procurable all along the road should be employed in smoothing it. No new earth should be thrown in; merely the impressions left by all the last feet and wheels that passed over should be filled up by picking the rough raised edges into them. There should be no further repairs, except, of course, the filling in of gaps and hollows, should any have occurred. Under this plan the road would be good for foot passengers and hackeries, and not *impassable* for other wheeled carriages for seven months of the year. The extent of the convenience rendered will, of course, depend on the number of gangs employed in smoothing. If procurable, as many should be employed as would complete the whole in a few days. Just at that time, that is for the first fortnight of November, people are procurable in large numbers. All work in the fields is over, and the crops are not fit for the sickle.

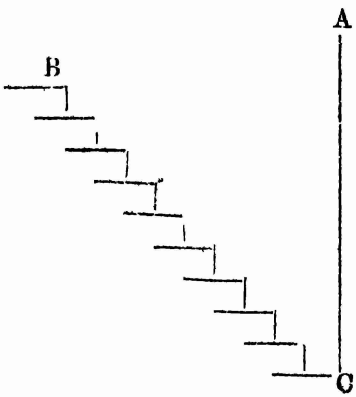
101. Above all when a flood has occurred and gaps have been made in the road, measures should be taken for filling them up as soon as *the water has ceased to run.* The inconvenience suffered by gaps in the road is not easily described. Women are travelling on it at all seasons. Those who have never before left the house have to travel from Juggernath to their homes at the worst season of the year.

102. In going from Cuttack to Balasore, 3 miles South of Buddruck, I found two gaps in the road, one about 40 feet wide with 9 feet water, the other smaller with less water. The flood occurred on the 24th September. I passed on the 16th November. There was no symptom of any preparations to repair the damage, though a few men might make a path across for foot passengers in a few hours, and a road for hackeries in a day or two. The departmental representation always is the want of earth. It is quite true there is water on both sides of the road; but earth is procurable from the road itself. It should be shoved a sufficient distance to fill the gap, however far that may be, if one foot will not suffice, two feet should be taken, and its place supplied at the proper season when the waters shall have dried up. There is no fear of more flood this year, and if there were, risk should be run in order to remedy the existing evil. A gap of 400 feet is no greater inconvenience than a gap of 40. I found 36 hackeries laden with skins, and the conveyances of pilgrims collected at this place. The men unloaded the hackeries and carried the skins on their heads, four or five at a time, till all had been taken round through the paddy fields; they then took the empty hackery and bullocks by the same route and loaded the hackeries again with a prospect of having to repeat the process a second time within half a mile.

103. I think a discretionary power should be vested in Executive Officers to lay out a sufficient sum to meet such emergencies, and may be, periodical reports during the wet months that the roads were passable, or if not, full explanation why they were not, might prevent such interruptions as that I have described.

Cuttack Revetment.

104. As desired by the Military Board I carefully inspected the Cuttack Revetment. For the most part, it appears in much the state it was many years ago; but where repairs were necessary, they have in some instances been executed in such a manner that any Mogul or Mahratta bricklayer would have been ashamed of them. Instead of replacing the damaged wall by a stronger wall with a foundation so deep as not to be undermined, two sloping Ghauts have been erected at an angle of about 45 degrees. The stones lay over each other a few inches; underneath all is mud. As soon as the mud becomes soaked, the stones sink, and not only so; but the Officer who built these Ghauts appears to have supposed that, provided there was certain number of feet of masonry, it mattered nothing whether the measurement was perpendicular or sloping. He must have thought that a bank of masonry 30 feet from C. to B. would protect the country as effectually as a wall of masonry 30 feet from C. to A, for those Ghauts are actually several feet lower than the wall on either side of them. A section of one of these Ghauts showing its present state is appended. It must be entirely rebuilt on a better principle, and the other at present standing, having been built in the same manner, it cannot be depended on.



105. A few feet within the Revetment there is an Embankment made with the intention of checking the flood should the Revetment be overtopped. As the river never remains at the highest flood for many hours, this Embankment may be of use in the event of the Revetment being merely overtopped, but can be of no use should the Revetment sink. The rush of water would soon remove the earth at the back of the Revetment and under the Embankment, and a complete breach would be made. Had the flood lasted a little longer, and risen two feet higher last July, it is supposed that the Town would have been swamped.

106. The Executive Engineer has a scheme for turning the flood from the town-side of the river, by immediately opening a Channel for the water on the other side of the bed, on the expectation that once opened it will gradually enlarge itself, and by carrying the water away from the Revetment, enable him to examine the foundation throughout the whole length of that part, the condition of which is considered critical. The experiment appears worth the trial, for it will cost but little and can do no harm; while, if successful, it may eventually remove the set of the current from the North side of the river altogether, which would be a great advantage.

EDUCATION.

107. The English School at Cuttack is now attended by 131 pupils, averaging 10½ years of age, comprising—

41 Ooriyahs.
31 Bengallees settled in Orissa.
58 Foreigners.

108. The system is that common in our English pupils in this country. It is not sufficiently practical. The books in use for the 1st Class are named in the margin. For years to come there is every prospect of there being a great demand for Surveyors and Civil Engineers. It might, I think, be more useful to the 1st Class boys if they were instructed in Surveying and other Arts likely to procure them employment, rather than in the Poetical English Reader. It appears to me that the great fault of our Schools is that the books used to teach the language, facility of expression, style, &c, do not, for the most part, convey any practical information. Instead of Histories of Rome and Histories of England, I would place in their hands books conveying useful information on various subjects, especially moral treatises, so that when learning the language they might also learn that which would be practically beneficial.

Poetical English Reader, Essays of Goldsmith, with Keightley's History of England, Elements of Algebra, Geometry, Bamber's Course, Etymology and Syntax of the English Grammar.

109. There are Vernacular Schools at Kendraparra, 40 miles East, and Mahasingpore, 10 miles East from Cuttack.

110. Thirty-two pupils attend at the former, and 28 at the latter. The education afforded is scarcely better than is to be had at the common Village Schools; indeed, as before stated, there are no Ooriyah books by means of which a superior education can be imparted. I would close these two Schools, distribute freely such Ooriyah books as we have to the Village Schools, and open English Schools at Jahajpoor in Cuttack, and Saibeer in the Pooree District. Jahajpoor is 40 miles N. E. from Cuttack, Saibeer is 20 miles S. E. There certainly is a desire to learn English, and the only chance of preventing the Ooriyahs from remaining what they are, the most ignorant of our subjects, is by encouraging the inclination which prevails. There is a great deal of good in an Ooriyah on which to build good temper, patience, industry, (compared with natives of other parts) enterprize, (they are to be found in every part of Hindustan), gratitude, and attachment. They have proved themselves excellent men of business, and there is every reason to think that any opportunity of learning English that may be offered will now be gladly accepted by those in a position to learn.

111. The existing Ooriyah Literature comprises the Works named in the margin. When these have been read the Master can only begin over again. Mr. Sutton assures me that he and his brethren are quite prepared to translate as many books as may be demanded of them; but it cannot

1. Ooriyah Grammar.
2. Ditto Instructor.
3. Vernacular Class Book.
4. Elements of Natural Philosophy.
5. Elements of Arithmetic.
6. Rudiments of Ooriyah Arithmetic.
7. Introductory Lessons in Ooriyah.

Vocabulary of Sanskrit Verses.
Ooriyah Dictionary.
8. Chambers' Moral Class-book.

be worth the while of the Government to pay a considerable sum for the translation of a Work for the use of two Schools containing 50 pupils.

112. For a time, I would grant the Works 1 to 7 free of cost, and 8 at the cost, to all Native Village Schools. If printed in great numbers, the cost would be very trifling. After a time there may be sufficient demand for them to make gratuitous distribution no longer necessary.

113. A petition has been presented to me requesting that a College may be established at Cuttack, and some of the reasons given for such an institution being necessary are not devoid of matter calling for consideration The petitioners represent that inconvenience is experienced from the distance of the central College at Hooghly, as well as from the difference of the Vernacular taught in the two Institutions. I am not prepared to support this prayer at present. Under recent orders English Schools are about to be established at Balasore and Pooree; I have now proposed the establishment of two more at Jahajpoor and Saibeer. Three years hence, when the pupils of these Schools and the School at Sambulpoor shall be coming forward in considerable numbers demanding completion of the studies commenced at the Schools, the establishment of a College at Cuttack will be a subject to be considered. The step from one English School to four English Schools, and a distribution of Ooriyah elementary books should suffice for the present

114 A complaint having been made that the orders to prefer those educated at the Government Schools had not been observed by the District Officers, I called for a Return of the appointments conferred on those educated at the Government Institutions. The Return shows that since the passing of the Resolution of the 10th October 1844, 31 persons educated in the Government Schools have obtained employments in the Cuttack Districts.

Post Office.

115. The Post Office has for some time been in the Cantonment in a wretched hut of mud and thatch. The Collector, who is now the Post Master, proposed to remove it to his Cutcherry, but the Post Master General, it appears, objected, as the Dâk from Calcutta would have to pass through the Cantonment, two miles further on, to the Collector's Office, which would occasion full an hour's delay in the delivery of the letters. The present Office is entirely unsuitable, and never should have been appropriated to such a purpose. It is dark, filthy, and discreditable, and being two miles from the Office and the residence of the Collector and Post Master, he cannot carry out the standing orders to have the Packets opened in his presence.

116. It may be inconvenient to take the Packets to the Collector's Office; but I see no help for it, and I would recommend that the house hitherto appropriated to the Superintendent of Abkaree be henceforth the Post Office. It is in the middle of the Town, and will be extremely

convenient to all the Merchants and others If the European residents find the delay of an hour inconvenient, they can remedy it by entertaining among them a boy and a pony, which they may do for 4 annas per mensem each.

SALT.

117. For the last two years the manufacture in this District has been limited to a supply for home consumption. Export to Calcutta has been stopped in consequence of there being no sale for it at Sulkea. The Cuttack Salt is not so white and pure as that manufactured in the Balasore Agency, and landed at Sulkea It costs more. The prices advertized for the current year are Cuttack Rupees 336, Balasore Rupees 313.

118. For the last five years the charges in the Salt landed at Sulkea were :—

				Rs.	As.	P.
1846-47	...	...	..	88	4	6
1847-48	..	...	..	91	8	1
1848-49	....	..	.	91	14	0
1849-50	...	...	..	89	4	10
1850-51	..	..	.	88	5	0

And the Salt was stored in the Agency at the following prices—

1847 48	...	...	...	59	5	2
1848 49	...	...	...	60	10	4
1849-50	...	...	.	55	11	8
1850-51	...	..	...	54	2	8

Under the new system of adjusting the charges, the Agent represents that Salt might be stored in the Agency at Rupees 49-9-9 ; but of course, the new system will equally affect the other Agencies, and the relative cost will remain very much the same.

119 There are three Salt Golahs :—

Cuttack.

Kiparra, 40 miles N. E. from Cuttack.

Dadoora, 20 miles E. from Do.

120. The sale price is Rupees 1-14 per maund, and at six Chowkees near the Aurungs it is sold at Rupees 1-8

121. The quantity of salt consumed in the District is on an average 1,55,654 maunds, which, at the rate of 8 seers, is a supply for 7,78,270 people. But the population is estimated at 10,18,797, leaving 2,40,507 persons consumers of smuggled Salt. I have said in another place that I believe the estimate of the population to be overrated by about 100,000, and though from existing circumstances there are considerable opportunities afforded for smuggling Salt, I do not believe that so large a portion of the people are habitually supplied with smuggled article.

122. I have desired the Agent, with the assistance of the Zemindars interested, to endeavour to reduce the charges, so that the Cuttack Salt may be able to compete with the Salt of the other Agencies, and the District no longer be deprived of the advantages of its situation, and he has hopes that he may be able to do so, otherwise I have told him that his manufacture must be more concentrated. Nothing is so calculated to lead to smuggling as making a small quantity of Salt over a large tract of country. The Aurungs now worked in Cuttack could make nearly double the quantity of Salt required for home consumption Two should be abolished next year, if an arrangement cannot be made for again exporting to Sulkea

123. The Agent represents that his Chowkee force is very weak, which is the case, and a plan for strengthening it is now under the consideration of the Board; but the real check is on the Aurungs by means of a pressure for increased manufacture on the Aurung Omlah Concentration, and the necessity of great diligence in the Aurungs kept up to provide the Salt required, will do more to prevent smuggling than an increased Chowkee force.

124. As the advances have been made for the current season, nothing can be done towards concentrating the manufacture this year. I would let the subject of making the Chowkee force more efficient lie over till it shall have been determined whether the manufacture is to be concentrated and limited to a supply for home consumption, or whether such a reduction in the costs and charges can be effected as shall enable the Agency again to export to Sulkea.

Pilgrim Hospital at Cuttack, Urnoochutter Fund

125. The first mention of the Urnoochutter Fund is in Section XXX Regulation XII. of 1805. "Nothing herein contained shall be construed "to authorize the resumption of the established charitable donation to "the Officers of certain Hindoo Temples called 'Urnoochutter'"

126. No information respecting it is to be found between that date and 1813, when the Collector wrote to the Commissioner, and informed him that the Urnoochutter monthly charitable allowance was much abused, that persons in easy circumstances were assisted, that the only real objects of charity were six or seven old women, and that he had no doubt that the allowance to the Temples in and about Cuttack was equally abused, but that he had not the means of ascertaining.

127. The Commissioner's answer desired the Collector to substitute "real objects of charity in lieu of those persons who have not hitherto "received an allowance."

128.—Between this time and 1840, there are letters showing that the institution existed; but nothing of any interest till we come to the Collector's letter of the 25th July of that year.

129. The statement then furnished by the Collector showed that* the allowance of Rupees 526-3-10 was disposed of as shown in the margin, and, as the Pilgrim Hospital, up to that time supported by the Govern-

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*Sic in original.

ment, was to be abolished, he proposed that a portion of the Urnoochutter funds should be appropriated to the maintenance of that nistitution. The Commissioner and the Board supported the proposal, which was sanctioned by the Orders of Government dated the 13th October 1840.

130. The Local Authorities represented that the appropriation of part of the funds, Rupees 108-14-10, for the support of thirty-three idols being expressly guaranteed by Section XXX. Regulation XII of 1805, it must be continued; the disbursement of the remaining Rupees 440-15-7 they distributed to the support of indigent persons, and the establishment of an Hospital. This arrangement has continued ever since.

131. The whole allowance is now passed monthly by the Civil Auditor in two bills,—one, amounting to Rupees 297-12-0, for the expenses of the Pilgrim Hospital, and the other, amounting to Rupees 252-8-5, embracing the charitable donation to the Officers of certain Hindoo Temples called Urnoochutter, and the maintenance of Pensioners. Of this sum, Rupees 43-15 8 has for some time been yearly sarved, the pensioners having died, and Rupees 31-11-9 was discontinued by late orders of the Board of Revenue. At the present moment the whole allowance is disposed of as follows :—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Pilgrim Hospital	297	12	0
Officers of Hindoo Temple	103	4	5
Pensioners	73	2	7
Saving	75	11	5
	549	14	5

132. For the two last years the number of persons who have been fed at the Hospital has averaged about 169; the average number of patients admitted during the year has been 223 males and 56 females; and 2,153 out-patients have received assistance.

133. The amount of savings now at the disposal of the Committee is Rupees 6,903-4-8. They are willing to make over Rupees 3,000 of that sum, and Rupees 75-11-5 of the monthly income towards the support of an Hospital at Balasore.

134. I visited the Hospital at Cuttack, and was not pleased with it. It is an old dirty building, very badly situated in the Cantonment, close to the public road. There is no separate room for the women; they lie about in the verandah; and the 169 paupers are daily fed in sheds in the Compound close to the Hospital.

135. The situation is inconvenient and disagreeable for pilgrims, close to the Sepoy lines, and all the noise and stir of the Regimental Bazar.

136. I propose that the Hospital should be moved to Mungulabad, where the road from the Jobra Ghaut to the Kujooree Ghaut crosses the road to Chowleagunge. There are funds sufficient to erect a building suited to the purpose, after having supplied Rupees 3,000 towards an Hospital at Balasore.

Appointment of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon to Cuttack.

137. A petition was presented to me by the respectable Native and East Indian inhabitants, requesting that a Sub-Assistant Surgeon may be appointed to Cuttack.

138 The medical duties of the Station are now all in the hands of the Surgeon of the Regiment He has three Hospitals to attend to besides the Civil and Military Residents and their families. Formerly there was a separate Civil Surgeon. I do not think there is occasion to restore that Office ; but if the services of a Sub-Assistant are available, I recommend compliance with the prayer of the petition, which has the support of the Commissioner.

139 If an Officer cannot be spared, then I would recommend that the Sub-Assistant Surgeon stationed at Pooree be removed to Cuttack, but deputed to Pooree every year at the time of the Ruth Jattra, so as to reach Pooree ten days before the Jattra, with orders to remain there till the number in the Hospital shall be reduced to the usual average, or perhaps, it would be better to rule that he should remain one month from the tenth day previous to the Jattra.

Tributary Mehals.

140. The constitution of the Office of Superintendent of Tributary Mehals is very much changed, whether for the better is a very difficult question.

141. In January 1839, I submitted a set of Rules for the management of the Mehals, which were not approved as involving *more interference than was desirable.* A revised set of Rules was submitted by Mr. Mills. He adopted my Rules as his ground-work, modifying only such parts as involved too great an interference in the general administration of Civil and Criminal Justice. But the Government of India considered even these Rules to be too minute and precise to work well. They were again rejected The Government thought it better not to pass any Rules, but directed the Superintendent to shape his conduct by the spirit of those proposed.

142. Rule 5* restricts the interference of the Superintendent in other matters of Criminal Justice to the suppression of feuds and animosities between the Rajahs and members of their families, or between the Rajahs and their subjects, to the correction of systematic oppression, and generally, to important points which, if not attended to, might lead to general outrage and confusion, or to contempt of the authority of Government.

See page 60, selection No 3.

143. The interference authorized by this Rule was considered too meddling, and it was not passed.

144. Several of the Rajahs having represented that the interference had increased day by day, and that it was impossible they should manage the wild people most of them had to deal with if petty complaints were received by the Superintendent, I requested that Officer to furnish me with a statement of the complaints against the Rajahs admitted

during the last two years. It contains twenty-five cases, and bears out the representation of the Rajahs, that interference has much increased; indeed, it leaves them without any authority whatever.

145. I find these entries under the heading "substance of complaint":—

"Illegal attachment of property."
"Dispossession from Bramooter Lands."
"Dispossession from Jagheer Lands."
"Dispossession from Serberakarree tenure."
"Not being allowed to take water from his field."
"Dispossession from a hut."
"Assault and forcibly snatching money."

146. I called for the papers in three cases. It certainly never was intended that the authority of the Rajahs should be interfered with in the manner it has been, and it appears to me quite impossible that they should be able to manage their Estates as heretofore, if such a system be continued. If the Superintendent takes the part of any petitioner complaining of a trifling injury suffered at the hands of the Rajah, he must be prepared to assist the Rajahs on their complaining of the conduct of their Paiks and Ryots towards them; and they will soon become quite dependant on the assistance of the Officers of Government for the peace of their respective territories.

147. The Superintendent in his letter to me states that when a petition is presented to him, complaining of any act committed by a Rajah calling for his interference, the practice is to require an explanation from the Rajah. This is opposed to the spirit of Rule 6, giving the Rajahs *control* over their subjects, except in *extreme cases*.

148. In Mr. Mills' note on the Gurjat Estates printed in the third number of the Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government, I find this passage:—"The Rajahs, says Mr Ricketts," may occasionally be "guilty of cruelty "and oppression," but my information by no means "proves them to be in their general conduct to their subjects either "oppressive or cruel. In these sentiments I fully concur."

149. I am not aware of the occurrence of any circumstance calculated to show that Mr. Mills and I were mistaken in our estimate of the general character of the Chiefs, nor have I heard of any occurrences showing that a complete change in the Police is needful. I will not go so far as to say that the general character of the Chief is such that the mass of their subjects can derive no benefit from any check imposed on the Rajahs by rendering them liable to the interference of the Superintendent; but if it is considered that the time is come for a change, the whole constitution of the Superintendent's Office must be altered. The liability under which they are to rule must be fairly made known to the Rajahs, and they must be told that, for the future, their proceedings in all cases will be open to the revision of the Superintendent in appeal. I do not think the change is called for at present. I should prefer instructing the Superintendent that, until he shall show that alteration is needful, and alteration shall be sanctioned, the orders which left the control of their subjects with the Rajahs must be observed.

150. The confiscation of the Killahs of Bankee and Ungool, and the attachment of Niagurh and Neelgurree, have greatly increased the business in the Office of the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals, the consequence of which has been that either the Commissioner has been occupied in cases not worth the cost of his time, or the cases have been left to an Assistant who, ignorant of the business of the commonest routine, could not possibly be well qualified to dispose of cases connected with these Mehals.

151. Statements furnished by the Superintendent show that between the 1st May 1850 and the 30th April 1853, the following cases were disposed of in his Office :—

Criminal cases	... 101
Criminal cases in the attached Estates ...	... 192
Criminal cases decided by Assistant ..	... 84
Civil and Revenue rents on attached Estates	... 9114
Ditto in other Estates	... 6518

152. When I was Superintendent of Tributary Mehals, the work of the Office did not occupy me half an hour per day, whereas I now find in the three years, 186 criminal cases in the Killahs held by the Rajahs were decided by the Superintendent and his Assistant, and 785 in the attached Mehals decided by the Tuhseeldars

153. Among the cases I observe 4 558 cases of resumption and 2,178 cases connected with Jagheer lands in Killah Neelgurree, and 7,670 Lakraj cases, and 5,456 Jagheer cases in the other attached Estates. These cases in Neelgurree were disposed of by the Tuhseeldar acting with the consent of the Rajah. The cases from Niagurh, the Rajah being a minor, were disposed of by the Superintendent.

154. As I have said, I think it very objectionable employing young assistants, who are not trusted to dispose of cases in the Collectorship, in deciding cases in the Office of the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals. I regard the Office of the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals as one of the last offices in which a young Assistant, entirely unacquainted with the native character, should be employed. Successful management in that Office must constantly entirely depend on acquaintance with the habits and manners of the people.

155. It is quite clear that the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals, with the quantity of business now thrown in the Office, must have an Assistant. Instead of young men, who have lately left College and who are continually changing, a permanent Assistant is required; and in my opinion he should be a native. The most difficult duties connected with the Mehals have constantly been satisfactorily performed by natives, and a native now is available who long since established a character for extraordinary cleverness and circumspection, and who has lately shown remarkable tact in effecting the capture of the murderers in Duspullah. I allude to Baboo Burmanund Dass. He was for many years a Deputy Collector. Not understanding Bengallee he was placed on the out-of-employ list on the completion of the settlement. He has since been employed as Tuhseeldar in Killah Neelgurree, and is now Tuhseeldar in Ungool with the powers of a Deputy Magistrate.

156. I recommend that he be appointed permanent Assistant to the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals, on a salary of Rupees 500, including Rupees 100 for Establishment, with powers to hear appeals from the Tuhseeldars of all the attached Killahs in all Departments, and to dispose of cases from the other Killahs, subject to the control of the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals.

157. Thus permanently assisted, I think the Commissioner might relieve the Judge by taking the Balasore Sessions and the Criminal Appeals of Balasore and Pooree. I have shown in another place that the Judge is overwhelmed with work. Mr Gilmore is very industrious; but, thinking it necessary to be exceedingly careful, he does not get through his work quickly. As remarked by the Sudder Court, with greater habits of condensation, he would be able to get through more work. This inability to condense cannot be remedied, and though able and efficient, in the absence of the power to condense, he must be slow. The arrangement I have proposed will be acceptable to Mr. Gilmore, and it certainly will be approved by those connected with the Courts.

158. The arrangement I recommend increases the expense of Establishment to Rupees 6 000 per annum; but it cannot be expected that the confiscated Mehals should be managed by the establishment which sufficed when they were held by the Rajahs. I have shown that since the confiscation Bankee has yielded a net increase of Rupees 55,982-6-0, and Ungool a net increase of Rupees 52.436-6-4. They can pay for an Assistant. Moreover, if for the convenience of the people we increase the number of District authorities we must be prepared to provide appellate authorities to hear appeals for their decision. The ultimate effect of subdividing Districts must be to prevent crime, and to secure the apprehension and punishment of offenders when crime has been committed; but I believe the first result is always a considerable increase in the number of persons brought to trial. The strength of the Appellate Courts must keep pace with the strength of the Courts having original jurisdiction. If, as has been the case in Cuttack, the increased number of subordinate Courts prevents the appeals from being timely disposed of, much of the advantage sought in the establishment of the new Courts must be lost.

159. As far as I could learn from inquiring, or judge from those who called on me, the character of the Chiefs generally is little changed. They are, most of them, as fond as ever of the seclusion of the jungles, and still regard sensuality as the object most worthy of a Rajah's care. The Rajah of Dakunal is a most creditable exception. He manages all his own affairs, has given up all unreasonable exactions from his subjects, has had his Estate measured and settled, and given leases to all his Ryots, covering all demands on them for a specified period, and is anxious to be regarded as something better than a mere Jungle Chief. I think some recognition of his praiseworthy conduct, and token of the sympathy of the Government in his endeavour to improve his Country, would have a very good effect.

160. After this was written a case was brought to my notice at Balasore, which is a good example of the nature and the extent of the interference now exercised. The circumstances were as follows:—

Kishnoo Churn Dass, of Neelgurree, presented a petition to the Assistant Superintendent at Balasore, representing that on his Sister-in-law dying he had taken possession of her property, (pots and pans, &c., &c., in value about Rupees 20) but that Ruggoonath Putnaik, on the part of the Rajah, had taken it from him as escheated to the Rajah, there being on rightful heir. He prayed for its restoration.

161. On the 14th July the Assistant passed an order that under the Rules promulgated in July 1840, he had no jurisdiction to interfere.

162. Kishnoo Churn Dass appealed to the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals, who, on the 10th August, called on the Rajah by a Perwannah for answer. The Rajah's answer having been received on the 27th September 1853, the Superintendent passed an order to this effect. The Petitioner represents that he is the heir of the deceased; the Rajah affirms that the deceased left no heirs. Inquiry is necessary. It is ordered, therefore, that the papers be returned to the Assistant. He will, in the first place, attach the property, and call for proof from the Petitioner that he is the heir of the deceased, and from the Rajah proof that he is not. Should the Petitioner prove himself to be the heir according to the Shastres, he will make over the property to him, and if not, allow the Rajah to retain it The Petitioner failing to attend, after some time the case was struck off the file.

163. The Rajah as Rajah of the territory took possession of the property, value about Rupees 20, as escheated to him. The Superintendent directed the Assistant to take evidence from the claimant and the Rajah, and judge between the parties, and carry his award into effect. Here the principle is clearly brought to issue. The Assistant adhered to the spirit of the Orders of 1840. The Orders of the Superintendent are altogether opposed to the spirit of the instructions. If interference in this case was desirable, rules should be framed for the guidance of all in supercession of the Orders of 1840.

Ferries.

164. The Ferries in the District are all free, and I think it most desirable they should continue so. The boats are excellent and accommodation in every respect sufficient.

Tanks.

165. The Civil Surgeon having represented to me that there were three tanks, which, from the noxious state of their contents and their peculiar situation, had a very prejudicial effect on the health of the residents, I visited them. They are all in the Lines.

1. S. E corner of Regimental Hospital
2. S. of the Hospital and W. of the Bullock Sheds.
3. Between the Artillery and Grenadier Lines.

166. They are all full of putrid vegetation, and must be unwholesome for those living near The Surgeon remarked that the Artillery

lines were certainly less healthy than the other parts of the Cantonments, and he attributed it entirely to Tank No. 3.

167. On referring the subject to the Executive Engineer he informs me that to fill up the three Tanks would cost about Rupees 2,414. They are not either of them very large; but the earth must be brought from a distance. If the expense of filling them up cannot be sanctioned, the Surgeon is of opinion that the desired effect might be obtained by cleaning them, sloping and turfing the sides, and putting a railing round, which would prevent their being again made use of as receptacles of filth from the lines. Wood work is so expensive that cleaning and fencing would, I imagine, be little less costly than filling up, and the remedy would not be so complete. I recommend that the Tanks should be filled up. A considerable quantity of earth may be procured in the neighbourhood by shaving all the high spots near them.

UNGOOL.

168. Immediately after the confiscation of Ungool, Lieutenant Colonel Campbell procured the papers of the killah from Jugbundoo Putnaik, a servant of the Rajahs. They showed collections estimated at Rupees 35,589-11, of which only Rupees 4,500 was collected cash, the remainder was all paid in kind. At the summary settlement, made for a year, after the relinquishment of sundry cesses, the revenue was fixed at Rupees 21,548 2-1. This settlement stood for three years.

169. The killah was then measured. The Serberakars of the different villages furnished the rates, and then rates were assessed in the lands as measured by the Aumeens. The assessment then adjusted amounted to Rupees 22,826-3-10, which the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals reduced to Rupees 21,633-15-9. Five years' leases were granted, which will expire in September 1855.

170. The allowance made to the Serberakars was 10, 15, and 20 per cent, according to the size of the village, the small allowances being given in the large villages.

171. At this settlement the Serberakars of 39 villages paying Rupees 3,62,912-11 refused to engage, being dissatisfied with the Jumma demanded. Of these 29 villages have since been settled at reduced Jummas; the remainder are still held khas.

172. The revenue assessed at this settlement has not been regularly collected, and it is generally now allowed that the settlement was made in too great haste. The Deputy Collector was only engaged in it a month, though there are 345 villages, which is at the rate of above 10 villages per diem. It is clear to me that mistake was made in assuming too high a standard in converting the kind collection into payments in money; especially in the very remote jungle villages where there are no markets the assessment imposed was too high.

173. All agree that during the present and the ensuing year a complete revision must be effected. The cost will be Rupees 1,940; but the Tuhseeldar says the result will be an increase of Rupees 3,000 and that the increased Jumma will be collected with ease, while the existing Jumma

being unsuitable is realized with great difficulty, indeed is not realized, for there is always a balance not procurable at the end of the year.

174. The pay allotted to the Tuhseeldar of the killah appears to me very disproportionate to his responsibility. Though called merely Tuhseeldar, he is Collector, Magistrate, and Judge. In such cases we must not be guided entirely by the amount of land revenue he has to collect, but the responsibilities of his position as sole manager among a people requiring a good deal of management should be considered. There are 345 villages scattered over a large extent of country, with a population estimated at 36,542 people.

Rupees 150 per mensem.

175. The tribute payable by this killah was Rupees 1,550-6-4 Sicca Rupees, or Company's Rupees 1,653 11-11-2. In the five years since the confiscation, after payment of all allowances and establishments, Rupees 60 705-1-11 has been paid into the Collectorship, being above twenty times the tribute; so that if reference was had merely to the amount of collections, there may be said to be funds from which suitable remuneration can be provided. I would give the Tuhseeldar Rupees 200, and while employed in superintending the Settlement, increase his establishment by Rupees 14, *viz.*, Rupees 10 to his Peshkar and Rupees 4 for his Head Mohurir, and demand security from the Peshkar to the amount of Rupees 1,000, for, while engaged in the Settlement, the Tuhseeldar will not be able to take daily cognizance of the state of the Treasury.

The Establishment at present is.

	Rs.	As.	P.
Tuhseeldar	150	0	0
Peshkar	15	0	0
Mohurir	12	0	0
Ditto	12	8	0
Mohurir	8	0	0
Jemadar	8	0	0
25 Burkundauzes ...	100	0	0
4 Police Mohurirs	40	0	0
Papers	10	0	0

176. Upon the whole, though the settlement was made in too great a hurry, and the assessment in consequence was in some cases unsuitable, from all the accounts I have received, the way in which this killah has been managed during the last five years is creditable to all concerned. The people are quiet and contented, and the dams sanctioned has been completed, from which increased advantages will before long be derived.

Killah Bankee.

177. This killah was measured and settled for ten years. The settlement expired in September last. It has now been all re-measured with a view to another settlement for an extended period. The rates of the former Settlement have not been interfered with. The lands brought into cultivation since the last settlement have been assessed at a low rate not exceeding 6 Annas per Acre. The increase is expected to be Rupees 3,400 per annum. The Jumma of the settlement just expired was Rupees 22,800. The new Jumma will be Rupees 26,400

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That the Vernacular Schools be closed, and Ooreeah books freely distributed to the Village Schools, and that English Schools be established at Jahajpoor and Saibeen	110
That the Post Office be removed to the Collector's Office	116
That two Salt Aurungs should be closed if Salt cannot be made for export to Sulkea	122
That Rupees 3,000 of the funds, and Rupees 75 per month of the income of the Cuttack Hospital, be transferred to Balasore ..	133
That the Hospital should be removed from where it is to Mungulabad.	136

Paras.

That a Sub-Assistant Surgeon be appointed to Cuttack, or the Sub-Assistant Surgeon now at Pooree removed to Cuttack 137-138

That the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals be directed to observe the orders of 1840, or prepare for consideration new Rules for the management of the Mehals 149

That a Native Assistant to the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals be appointed 156

That some token of approbation be bestowed on the Rajah of Dekanal 159

Recommends that the salary of the Tuhseeldar of Ungool should be increased to Rupees 200 per mensem, and his Establishment strengthened at an expense of Rupees 14 per mensem 174

Recommends the addition of two Mohurirs to the Establishment in Bankee, and that the salary of Head Mohurrir should be raised from Rupees 15 to 20 178

PETITION PRESENTED BY THE ZEMINDARS OF CUTTACK WITH REMARKS THEREON.

PETITION.

Nothing has been gained by the settlement, except the adjustment of all disputes, for the assessment imposed is not realized in the Mofussil. The malikana allowed the Zemindars is not in all cases equal; to some 30 per cent. has been given, to some 35, to some 40. Those employed on the settlement did not ascertain the amount of produce, nor paid any attention to the papers filed by the Zemindars, but fixed the assessment at such a sum as they thought would conduce to their credit. The Zemindars engage under the supposition, that when losses occurred, remissions would be granted as before, which has not been done, the consequence has been that many estates have been alienated, which will be perused on reference to the records. That the assessment of the settlement cannot be collected will be proved by reference to the result of the management by Government Officers of Estates attached and Estates held by the Court of Wards. From all time the necessity of granting remissions on the occurrence of drought and inundations has been admitted. It was always allowed by the Mahrattas; it was allowed by the Government English Commissioners; but since the settlement, though there have been several calamitous seasons, remissions have not been given, and now orders have been passed that no remissions shall ever be granted unless the losses exceed 20 per cent.,

REMARKS.

It is admitted that all disputes have been settled, and of that the returns of the Courts are sufficient proof. It is true that malikana has been allowed at different rates—30, 35, and 40. Up to 1840, 30 per cent. was considered sufficient where there were no middle men to be provided for, 35 where there were. Subsequent to May 1840, 35 and 40 were substituted for 30 and 35. The larger allowance was given when middle men having an hereditary right of transfer were found in possession of villages. They were not in all cases necessary. There were more than were required to collect the rents; but they could not be got rid of, and they were retained on an allowance considered sufficient for their support, and the Zemindars received an allowance on the rents to be collected from these middle men. Mr. Mills proposed that the increased malikana sanctioned in 1840 should have retrospective effect, but the Government did not approve the suggestion. I have said in my Report that I think it would have been better had Mr. Mills recommendation been approved; but as several of the Estates have since changed hands, a revision so late in the day appears of doubtful expediency. I have freely admitted that in the matter of remissions they have cause for complaint. I would rescind the order ruling that, on the occurrence of loss, only the excess over

and that when the losses shall exceed 20 per cent., only the excess above 20 per cent. will be admitted. This is exceedingly unjust. Whatever the loss may be that should be remitted to the Zemindars and to the Ryots. It is therefore requested that on application the settlement may be reversed, and 40 per cent. malikana allowed, and that whenever there shall happen calamity of season, suitable remissions may be granted, or otherwise that 50 per cent. may be granted to all.

and above 20 per cent., or one-fifth is to be allowed, and remit with liberal hand the full loss wherever calamity shall occur. It would be quite useless to allow malikana increased to 50 per cent. and hold the Zemindars answerable under all circumstances. They would not be able to pay, and remissions would still be necessary, or in the course of a few years all the Estates held by Ooriyahs would change hands. I would freely allow dissatisfied proprietors to give up their Estates to be held as Khass Mehals, provided they did so previous to the occurrence of an arrear, or paid up all arrears when the application was made. I would never, except under very peculiar circumstances, to be reported to the Commissioner. allow an estate to be taken into Khass management when default has actually taken place, and the estates been lotted for sale.

2ndly.—That Mokuddums, Serberakars, and other middle men, having hereditary right of possession and transfer, shall default, their tenures may be sold under Regulation VIII. of 1819.

It has been proposed to make these tenures saleable at all times of the year in execution of summary decrees for arrears. I think this sufficient.

3rdly.—That the Revenue should not be collected by means of dustucks, but by sale in June and December.

The dustuck system has been abolished ; but 28th April and 8th November have been fixed as the latest days of payment. There appears to be no good reason for further postponement.

4thly.—That papers should be no longer demanded from the Zemindars under Regulation IX. of 1833.

I have recommended that these papers should not be demanded in future.

5thly.—That the Government should take cognizance of all affairs connected with the Temple of Juggernath as they did previous to the enactment of Regulation of 1840.	INADMISSIBLE.
6thly.—That corporal punishment should be restored.	INADMISSIBLE.
7thly.—That the price of Salt should be reduced.	They already have their Salt cheaper than elsewhere by 50 per cent.

This is not a very formidable list of grievances, and I may say that had the Zemindars received suitable remissions in the drought of 1851, which was felt all over the District, there would have been no complaints.

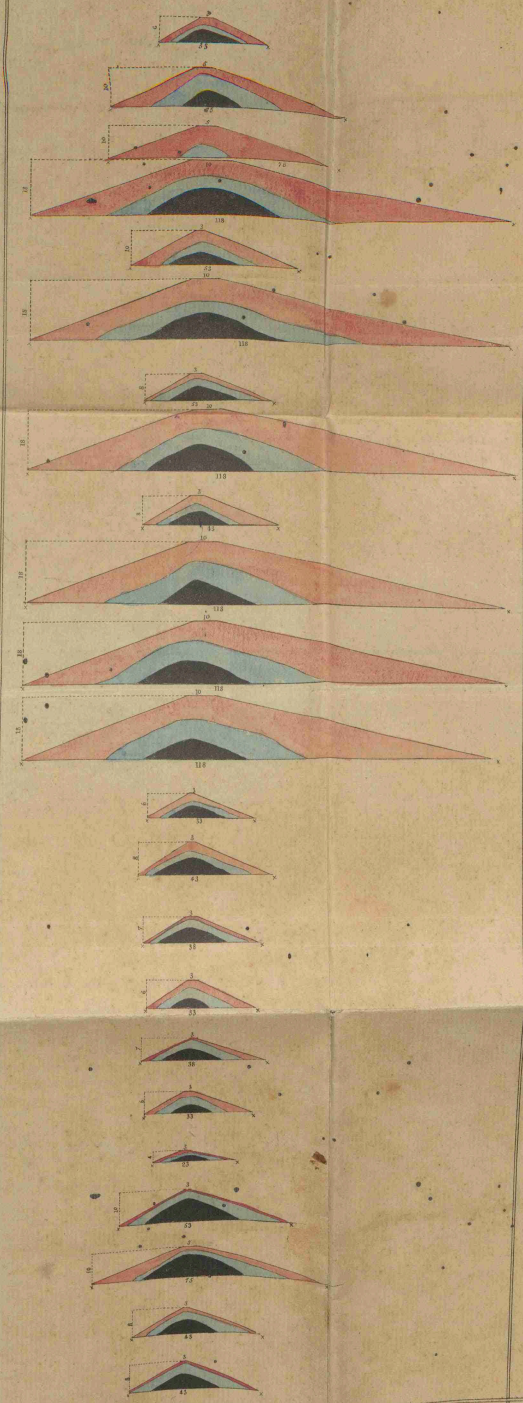
H. RICKETTS

WEST BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

ORIENTAL "CALCUTTA GAZETTE" OFFICE.

Mr Cockburn's Sketch
OF THE ROADS
ALLUDED TO IN PARA 91
BURDWAN
HOOGHLY
MIDNAPOOR
TUMLOOK
24 PURGUNNAHS
SOONDURBUNDS
Hoogly River
BAY OF BENGAL
Mulbhoom
Simlahpal
Kooliapal
Bara Toomkhoom
Chala Toomkhoom
Raypoor
Chunder Korah
Bordah
Jahanabad
Serampore
Barrackpore
Sulkea
Howrah
CALCUTTA
FORT WILLIAM
Dum Dum
Mynu ka Ghat
Oolalurria
Panskoora Ghat
Kooli Ghat
Gnah Khalee
Chalseela or Dhulbhoom
Turruff Oopur Bhaug
Turruff Mulla Bhaug
Turruff Deolah
Turruff Bagarah
Turruff Palasutoree
Bellasore
Balasore
Kugwan
CONTAI
Bidda Road
Sangor Island
Sangor Sooder

Diagram	Names of Purgunnahs	Nature of Embankments	Length in Running Feet
811			4,02,482
20	Lower Doroo	Khall	10,000
119	Beharreemoolah	River	59,300
31	Do. Do.	Khall	15,380
94	Upper Majnamoolah	Sea	46,980
153	Do. Mofnamoolah	Khall	76,500
169	Lower Majna	Sea	44,500
297	Do.	Khall	1,48,500
42	Khalsa Bograie	Sea	20,500
145	Do. Do.	Khall	72,060
58	Kalindee Balsye	Sea	23,950
45	Upper Beercool	Sea	22,500
180	Lower Beercool	Sea	90,000
79	Do. Do.	Khall	39,500
192	Dee Bograie	River & Khall	96,000
371	Paharpoor	River & Khall	1,85,500
94	Nurcamoolah	River & Khall	2,97,000
08	Raipoor or West Majna	River & Khall	1,53,000
88	Erench	River & Khall	2,04,000
85	Soojamoolah	Khall	2,92,500
25	Gokoolpoor	River	61,500
179	Omeersee	River	89,500
296	Jellamoolah	River & Khall	1,48,000
34	Upper Goomghur	River & Khall	68,000
23			27,62,152

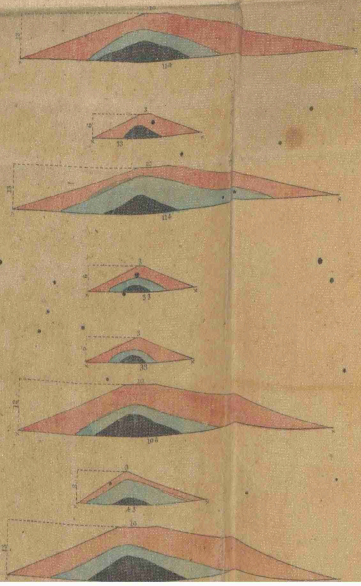


Lith: by H. M. Smith Surv. Genl. Office Calcutta April, 1868.

Sections shewing in Black, the Embankments as they existed after the Gale of 1850, in Blue, the Work executed by Captain Fagan and in Red, the quantity of work remaining to be done.

Calcutta 2nd Sepr 1853.

No of Sections	Names of Puryannahs	Nature of Embankments	Length in running feet
1 8 5	Kusba Midgelee	River	9 1,5 0 0
1 2 7	Do Do	Khall	9 8,3 0 0
8 4	Goomghur Lower	River	4 2,0 0 0
1 4	Do Do	Khall	5,5 5 5
2 2	Do Do	Khall	1 0,1 7 0
1 4 8	Upper Doroo	River	7 4,0 0 0
8	Do Do	Khall	2,2 5 7
5	Lower Doroo	River	7 7,5 0 0



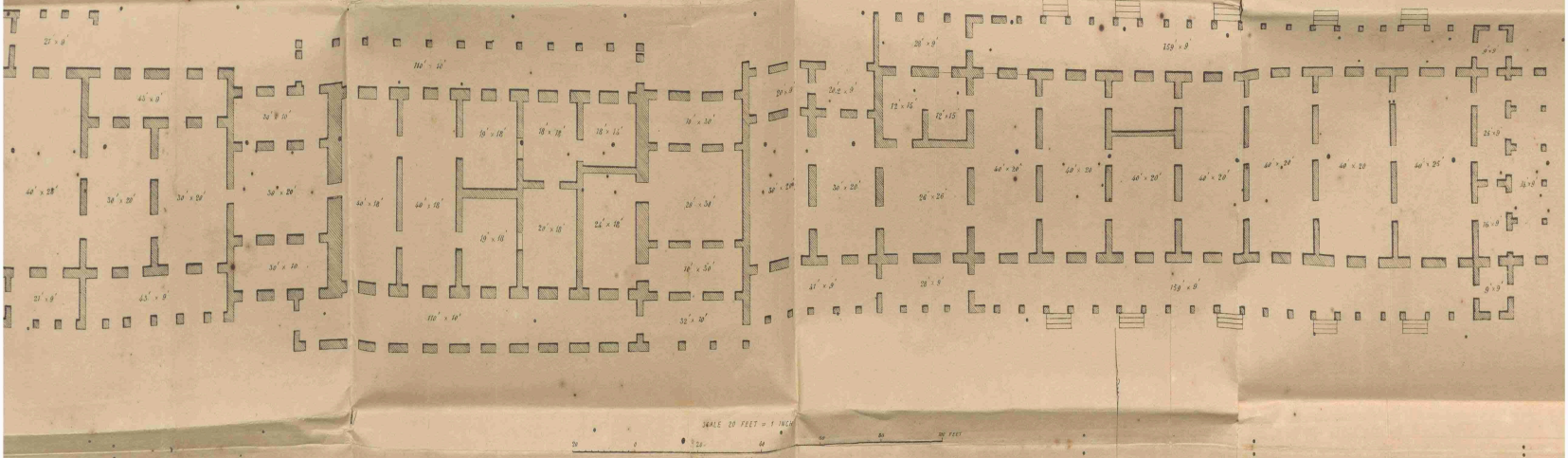
KUTCHERRIES

OF

MAGISTRATE AND COLLECTOR

OF

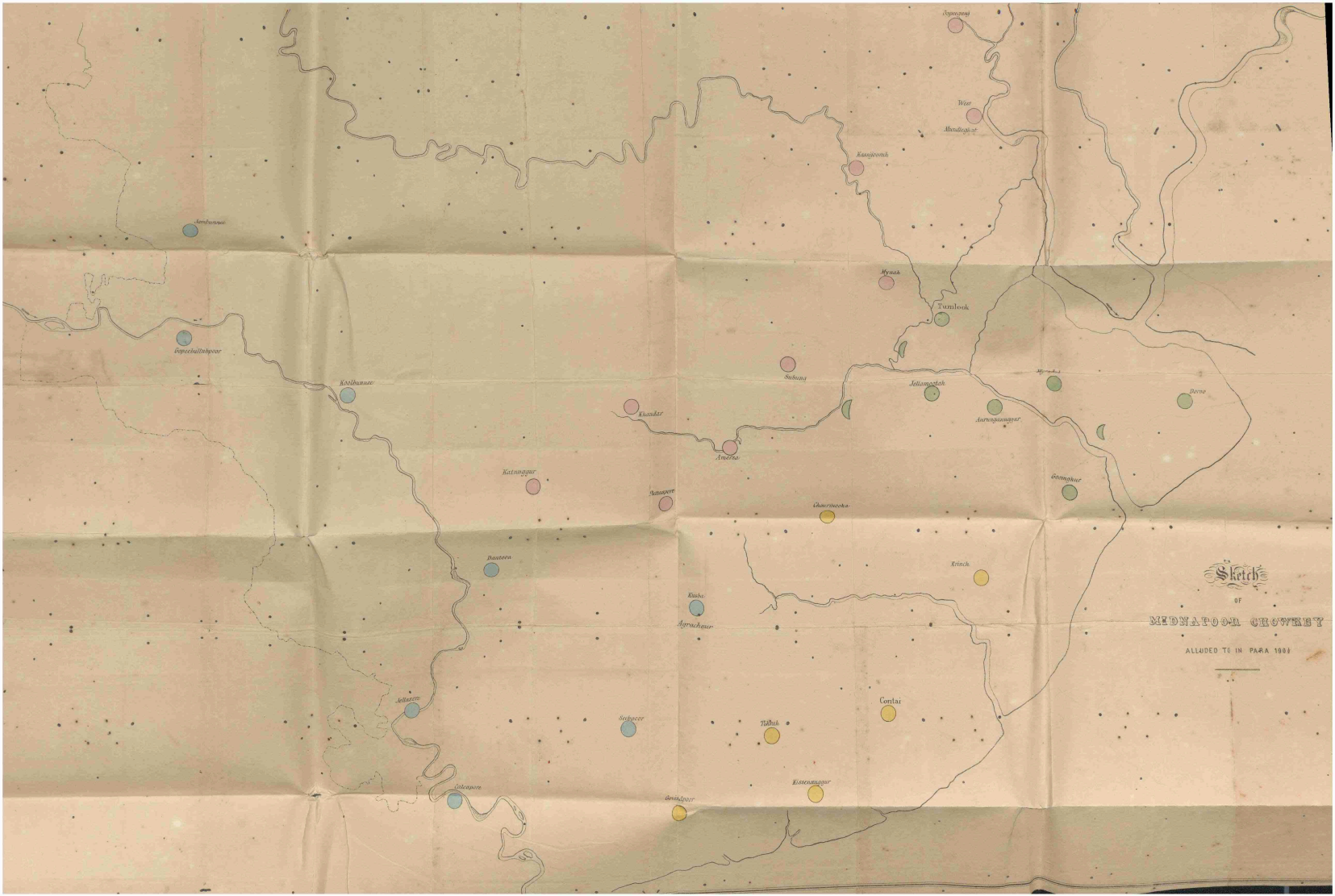
MIDNAPORE



SCALE 20 FEET = 1 INCH

(Signed) A. Highley — Capt.ⁿ
Ex.ᵗ Eng.ʳ Mis.ⁿ & Col.ʳ

LITHO'D AT J. & R. SMITH, SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, CHICHESTER, MAY 1859


Sketch
OF
MIDNAPOOR CHOWKEY
ALLUDED TO IN PARA 1908
Sambunnee
Gopeeballubpoor
Koolbunnee
Kasipoorah
Myrah
Yumlook
Subung
Jehanpotah
Aurungabunnur
Khandar
Amerka
Katunnagur
Bhagpore
Chorinooka
Gooneghur
Dasteora
Krinch
Khuhi
Agrachour
Contai
Jellasore
Sedpoor
Tilbuk
Kissenmagur
Coleapore
Govindpoor

This map was prepared by my predecessor who contemplated the abolition of three Chowkies in this District, his arrangements also contemplated the amalgamation of Chowkies Kulmijole and Kosseegunje and the creation of a new Chowkie at Surbarrea as now proposed, the map therefore indicates as clearly as if drawn on purpose, the present position of Chowkies Kulmijole and Kasseegunje and the site of the proposed new Cutcherry at Surbarrea.

It also indicates the position of Midnapore and Anundpore to which the villages in the extreme west of Kasseegunje jurisdiction should be annexed.

(Sgd.) W. Luke
Judge.

Litho. by H. M. Smith Surv. Genl. Office Calcutta April 1858.